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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a PSS plan to bring drug-sniffing dogs to junior high and high school campuses to do drug sweeps?

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INSIDE



TV Accidents

More and more kids are getting killed in accidents involving falling TV sets.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY...

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Rockefeller Tree

A small-town spruce from Pennsylvania rings in the holiday season.

LIFE 7 STYLE...Page 23

'EDUCATION FUNDING FEE'

USCIS remits \$22K to NMI

» FY 2012 budget law gives at least \$500K to PSS, but CNMI eyed \$2M to \$3M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the government received Monday some \$22,000 in initial "\$150 CNMI education funding fee" that employers hiring foreign workers paid to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service starting October.

But with only 2,759 petitioned as of Nov. 25 for a transitional worker status, the CNMI won't be able to meet its earlier target of \$2 million to \$3 million to help fund its vocational education programs.

The \$22,000 that the Fitial administration received from USCIS covers only at least 146 foreign workers.

See USCIS on Page 4



THE WONDERS OF RECYCLING

Passersby at the Paseo de Marianas check out the entries for the 6th Christmas Tree Decoration Contest yesterday. Elementary students decorated the trees using recycled materials. Eight judges evaluated the entries and the winners will be announced on Dec. 15.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story on Page 2

House OKs bill allowing withdrawal of Fund contributions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 11-7, the House of Representatives passed last night a contentious bill that allows non-retired members of the NMI Retirement Fund to withdraw their contributions from the pension agency without severance of employment or penalties even as the Fund's lifespan is

expected to last only three years.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) House Bill 17-266 took morning and afternoon hours to pass as 18 of 20 present members took turns passionately defending their position on the bill.

By 5:30pm, the hours of tension-filled session boiled

down to the votes.



Cabrera

The 11 members who voted "yes" on HB 17-266 were Cabrera, Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan), vice speaker Felicidad Ogu-

moro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan).

Those who voted "no" were minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-

See HOUSE on Page 4

Burglars strike twice at church's dormitory

» 2 teachers lose laptops, other items

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Burglars struck twice Wednesday at a dormitory of the Saipan Community Church and School in Susupe.

Two teachers fell prey to the burglars, who are believed to be the same group that broke into their rooms in the morning and evening, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday.

The Department of Public Safety

See BURGLARS on Page 4

'There's help for HIV and AIDS patients'

» Of 9 with HIV infection, 3 progressed to AIDS

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Of the nine individuals in the CNMI with HIV infections, three have progressed to AIDS cases, based on reported data from health authorities who want to hammer the message that more people should get tested and there is help available to patients.

Every month, 130 to 160 people in the CNMI undergo HIV/AIDS testing but most of them are pregnant women who are always offered the test to avoid transmission to their babies if they are

See AIDS on Page 4

'NMI govt owes people and businesses millions of dollars' PAGE 3
Ranking Marine Corps official leads delegation to Saipan. PAGE 5

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LOLLIPOPS

Christmas tree décor awes judges

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
 clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
 REPORTER

The resourcefulness and creativity of elementary schools competing for the grand prize in the 6th Christmas Tree Decoration Contest went up a notch this year, with more inventive materials and inspired themes among all entries.

Eight individuals representing government agencies and private entities were asked yesterday to assess and evaluate the 16 entries.

All entries had Christmas ornaments made of various recycled materials—soda cans,

water bottles, blank CDs, butane caps, juice boxes, straws, popsicle sticks, bento boxes, detergent and softener bottles, coffee wrappers, cookie containers, among others—which made it difficult for the judges to decide which school will bring home this year's prizes.

Remy Buniag of the Women's Affairs Office, who represented first lady Josie P. Fitia and has past experience judging the annual contest, said that seeing this year's entries gave her goose bumps. "It's really nice and they are all so creative," she said.

Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman said that this is the first time that he actually served as a judge for the contest since he only sent his representatives in the previous years.

"I compliment the participating schools, their students and teachers, for putting a lot of thought in coming up with their entries," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "I'm amazed that all their hard work have become all these."

Rabauliman described as "humbling" how children at such young ages "are really motivated to do the work and learn about the value of recycling."

"The fact that they put time and effort into this just moves me to become a judge if I do get invited again," said Rabauliman, adding that the support for recycling among schools is not just a one-day thing but is expected to go far.

The other judges were Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Galleria, James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, Ed Arriola Jr. of Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Tina Palacios

of Power 99, Ruel Villacrusis of RNV Construction, and Arnold Palacios of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The judges scored the entries based on several criteria: use of old or used materials, 10 points; relevance to Christmas theme, 10 points; attractiveness, 10 points; creativity and design, 10 points; and durability, 10 points.

The same judges will also decide the winning entries from Rota and Tinian elementary students for the "My Holiday Greetings To Our Visitors" contest.

The annual contest is organized by the non-profit group PDM Promoters, Inc. to promote the importance of recycling among elementary students in the CNMI.

Winners will be announced during a program on Dec. 15 starting at 5pm.

Yesterday's program was highlighted by the lighting of all 16 Christmas tree entries, along with the 30-foot Christmas tree in the middle of Paseo de Marianas.

PDM Promoters, Inc. director Misako Kamata acknowledged the efforts of participating schools in making the event a success.

"Every year, it's getting nicer and more creative," said Kamata. "Everybody is happy and they can all feel the Christmas spirit."

Kamata said PDM Promoters has long been a staunch supporter of the environment with its monthly cleanups.

"We appreciate the schools a lot, especially the teachers who give guidance to children regarding recycling. That's our goal, to educate the students and we would like to continue that tradition," she added.

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'NMI govt owes people and businesses millions of dollars'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI government literally owes many people and businesses millions and millions of dollars as there is no law that addresses the payment of court judgments, according to attorney Michael W. Dotts.

Dotts told *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI government owes money not just with his client, businessman Anthony Pellegrino and his Marine Re-

SHEFA suspends incentive award for Framingham students

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

After months of discussions, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board of directors decided yesterday to suspend the awarding of \$1,000 incentive grants to 13 post-graduate students of Framingham State University this fall semester.

Limited funding for the scholarship programs was cited as the prime reason for the decision, said board chair Jose Mafnas.

The incentive grant is given to students who achieve a 3.5 grade point average or higher every semester. Scholars are not required to apply for this award because they automatically get it based on their GPA records. Incentive awards are provided on top of the grant-in-aid and field of study grants.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider said that Framingham students used to get all three awards every semester. Each Framingham scholar used to receive a total of \$4,700 every academic term. Last fall 2010 semester, this cost SHEFA \$75,000 in total disbursements. In the spring 2011 semester, the board cut these awards to only \$2,800 for all three programs.

Prior to voting yesterday, board members Vina Saures and John Tenorio expressed concern that suspending the incentive award would be unfair to affected Framingham scholars. The two later voted yes to the award's suspension.

Framingham students complete their program through online courses. *Saipan Tribune* learned that all of these students are full-time employees in both private and government sectors.

Hofschneider pointed out that Framingham students are still eligible to receive the grant-in-aid award of \$800 and field of study grant amounting to \$1,000.

Mafnas said the suspension will last until SHEFA's funding status improves.

"Anytime you cut something...is not fair...but what can we do? The funding for it is almost not there and we have to maintain this suspension until we get [additional] monies," Mafnas said.

vitalization Corp., but also with the NMI Retirement Fund as well as hundreds who are owed compensation for lands that were taken.

Dotts said there are families who have had loved ones injured at the hospital who have not been paid their judgments.

There are also businesses and individuals who have sued and obtained court judgments against the CNMI who have not been paid, he added.

"The CNMI literally owes millions and millions of dollars and it hurts everyone that there is no process in place for all those people who are owed

money to be paid, even if they are paid only a little at a time," Dotts said in an email.

In 2005, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources agreed to a court judgment ordering it to pay \$5.65 million to Pellegrino or MRC. DLNR, however, did not comply with

the order, resulting in the court's three judgments in favor of MRC and Pellegrino.

By October 2010, the government's debt to Pellegrino and MRC has already ballooned to \$8.5 million due to accrued interests.

Dotts said the government's

debt was reduced to about \$5 million after the CNMI Supreme Court held that judgments against the CNMI don't accrue interest.

Dotts said the high court's ruling basically took away from

Pellegrino and MRC about \$3 million in interest.

He said the Supreme Court held that courts are powerless to enforce court judgments and ruled that judgments must be paid by legislative appropriation.

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Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, seated-second from left, joins health officials and other community members as they form the shape "zero" in keeping with this year's World AIDS Awareness Month theme, "Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths" during a proclamation signing yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

AIDS

From Page 1

infected. Were it up to the Department of Public Health's HIV/STD Program, they would like to have more individuals get tested.

"It's very important to get tested so that if people know they are infected, they can get help...There's help available," John Moreno, manager of DPH's HIV/STD Program, told *Saipan Tribune* on Capital Hill.

Moreno was among DPH officials, staff, and other community members who joined acting governor Eloy S. Inos yesterday morning in signing a proclamation declaring December 2011 World AIDS Awareness Month.

Moreno said on average, there are 90 to 100 pregnant women who con-

sent to HIV/AIDS testing, another 30 patients from the Family Planning Unit, and another 30 people who go to the HIV/STD Program.

Roxanne Diaz and Moreno said during the proclamation signing that there are currently nine "reported" individuals in the CNMI who are infected with HIV, and three of them have progressed to AIDS. They said there's no change in the reportable number in recent period.

Moreno, in a later interview, said all these nine individuals are adults. He said in past years, there were transmissions to infants but these infants didn't live long.

Inos, during the proclamation signing, also said he hopes more people will get tested. He said maybe if people know that there's another test that does not involve drawing of the blood, then

more people could submit to testing.

Moreno said while people can choose to be tested through drawing of blood, there's also another test that involves swabbing the mouth and collecting some cells. In the first method, the blood sample will be sent to Hawaii and takes two weeks for the result to come back in. The second one takes some 20 minutes to get the results.

This year's theme for World AIDS Awareness Month—"Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths"—recognizes the continued commitment needed by governments and policy makers worldwide to combat HIV and AIDS.

During the group photo, Inos, health personnel and others formed the shape of a "zero" with their hands to hammer home the "zero"

goal. Also present at the proclamation signing were Dr. Daniel Lamar, medical director for public health, and Dr. Chad Lowe, physician at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Health officials said HIV and AIDS continue to be a health concern in the CNMI, but the community has the ability to keep the numbers of HIV infections low.

"In recognition that the fight against HIV and AIDS will be won by effective HIV infection prevention and scientific research to find a cure, the people of the Commonwealth are encouraged to protect them and their loved ones, get tested, and stay informed and educated about the risks of HIV transmission," Inos said in his proclamation.

USCIS

From Page 1

The money is supposed to be used by the CNMI to train U.S. workers who will fill the void left by foreign workers who left or will leave the Commonwealth. Most private sector jobs are held by foreign workers, while government jobs are mostly held by U.S. workers.

As of Nov. 25, there were 2,759 foreign workers petitioned by employers for a Commonwealth-only worker status. This means there's at least \$413,850 in CNMI education funding fee so far paid but only \$22,000 have so far been remitted to the CNMI.

Inos said the initial money received will go to vocational education programs as required by U.S. Public Law 110-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control.

During an interview, Inos said the money will go to Northern Marianas College's vocational education program.

But a clarification from the Fitial administration last night stated that the funding will go to the Public School System.

Page 36 of the fiscal year 2012 budget law specifically says the governor is authorized to transfer at least \$500,000 to PSS for its vocational education and program development, from funds received from petitions filed pursuant to PL 110-229.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced a bill seeking to allocate over \$3 million in expected money from the employers' education funding fee. But Yumul got this estimate from the 22,416 in numerical cap for foreign workers in fiscal year 2012.

Yumul said yesterday that, given the number of petitions filed so far, it would be impossible to reach the \$3

million goal. He added that his bill is still with the House Ways and Means Committee.

Inos said USCIS district director David Gulick informed them about the \$22,000 check during a meeting of the Strategic Economic Development Council on Capital Hill.

"It's in our bank account...but there's going to be more," Inos said yesterday morning on Capital Hill.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the frequency of the remittance depends on USCIS.

He said if the CNMI government does not get its earlier projection of \$3 million, then they have to make adjustments on the vocational education programs.

Inos also said there will be auditing of such funds received by the CNMI from USCIS.

A businessman interviewed yesterday said he has reservations about all government spending habits—federal or local.

"I suppose less so with [schools receiving the funds] than the central government. The money transfer is to train the local workforce as foreign nationals are phased out. How money gets administered and spent is no better than those spending it," he said.

USCIS has yet to release data on the number of petitions received and beneficiaries covered from Nov. 25 to Nov. 28.

A total of just 1,458 CW petitions for 2,759 foreign workers were received as of Nov. 25, barely three days before the Nov. 28 cutoff. This is only 21 percent of the 13,399 foreign workers in the CNMI who are "potentially eligible" for Form I-129CW petitions, as stated in the final worker rule published in September.

Moreover, this number is surpassed by the over 3,000 paroles that USCIS granted to individuals in the CNMI.

BURGLARS

From Page 1

has yet to release information about the two cases.

A witness said that in the morning incident, the burglars stole one laptop, one underwater camera worth \$900, and a wallet with cash and other items. In the nighttime break-in, the suspects ran off with a laptop.

The burglars managed to enter the rooms by destroying the windows at the back of the dormitory.

The witness said that members of

the church's choir were preparing for practice around 7:30pm when they noticed a male teenager in the premises. Some members asked him what he was doing in the area.

As they were talking to the teenager, they heard one of the teachers in the dormitory shouting after seeing a man come out of one of the rooms and jump over the fence.

During the commotion, the teenager seen by choir members also ran toward the beach. The two suspects proceeded to the Sugar Dock area where a third suspect was waiting in a getaway vehicle.

A Visa card, receipts, and other

items belonging to one teacher were found scattered at the beachside near Saipan Community Church.

Two police officers responded but failed to catch the burglars.

In July, the house of Saipan Community Church associate pastor Roger Abe, located in the same compound, was also burglarized. Stolen were a black Toshiba satellite laptop, a bag, two wallets, cash, and other items.

Abe and his wife believe that a small boy was possibly used in the burglary as the point of entry was a small hole in the window. No one was arrested in that break-in.

HOUSE

From Page 1

Saipan), Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

Absent were Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan).

Cabrera made a floor amendment to his own bill. The amendment, which was adopted by members, extends from 45 days to 180 calendar days the period when members' request for withdrawal can be fulfilled.

HB 17-226, House Draft 1 now goes to the Senate.

Dela Cruz, who vehemently opposed the bill, said he hopes the Senate will vote this bill down.

"I believe the legislators who voted 'yes' panicked when they heard from the Fund that it only has a three-year lifespan. So they listened to government employees...I think that as lawmakers, we should not panic about this but rather help come up with solutions to prolong the life of the Fund," he said.

Richard Villagomez, administrator of the Fund, along with some lawmakers, pointed out that the bill does not have a "funding mechanism," and this will further hasten the demise of the pension agency.

Camacho, for his part, said he voted "yes" because the measure gives mem-

bers "options"—whether to withdraw their contribution or not. "It's not mandatory," he said. "I felt it's a good bill; it's not perfect but it gives options."

Joseph M. Pangelinan, a government employee, submitted 823 signatures to the House leadership, in support of the bill. Pangelinan led the signature drive in support of HB 17-226.

Cabrera said there are some 400 more signatures mostly from Public School System employees that they have yet to receive, bringing the total signatures to over 1,200.

Iguel's Committee on Health and Welfare had wanted the full body to act on the bill, saying the panel sees both potential benefits and possible adverse effects if the bill is enacted.

Ranking Marine Corps official leads delegation to Saipan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A top military official will lead a delegation that would visit Saipan for the first time tomorrow.

Brig. Gen. Daniel D. Yoo, Commanding General for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot/Western Recruiting Region, is expected to arrive today as part of a seven-member team who will meet with Mayor

Donald G. Flores, according to Sgt. Gregorio Comeo.

"This is their first visit on Saipan and they are here for just one day," Comeo told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Comeo, U.S. Marines recruiting officer for the CNMI, the Philippines, and Japan, said the team's visit is part of an initiative to see recruiting stations in the entire Pacific in support of recruitment efforts in the region.

At present, the U.S. Marines Recruiting Office has four new recruits from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Yoo, who was commissioned in March 1985 as a second lieutenant after com-

pletion of Officer Candidate School, relieved Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey in a change of command ceremony held on June 30 at the commanding general's lawn in San Diego, California.

Born on July 4, 1962 in Seoul, Korea, Yoo received a bachelor's degree from Arizona State University in 1985 and is a Marine Combatant Diver, a Military Freefall Parachutist, and a graduate of the

U.S. Army Ranger School.

Yoo was assigned as the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City in September 2010.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Traffic signal at SV-Dandan junction to be activated today

The Department of Public Works is informing the public that it will activate the traffic signal in the San Vicente/Dandan intersection today, Dec. 2. The project is fully funded by the Federal Highway Administration under the U.S. Department of Transportation. A ribbon cutting ceremony that would mark the functioning traffic signal is slated next week. (DPW)

Power outage on Navy Hill tomorrow

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a power outage tomorrow, Dec. 3, from 5:30am to 8:30am. Areas affected will be portions of Lower Navy Hill, Upper Navy Hill, and areas along Navy Hill Road leading toward the water reservoir and Maui 4. Water and sewer services located in these areas will also be affected. The power distribution crew will be replacing a rotted primary power poles and

will be performing line clearing. This outage is necessary to allow the linemen to work safely on the power lines. (CUC)

Chamber's December meeting set

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly general membership meeting this coming Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Hotel in Garapan, Saipan. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am and the general membership meeting will begin at 12pm.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta will do a presentation on what will be accomplished as a result of the creation of the corporation.

SCC will be hosting its Student Exploration Day that same day, and the 57 students being sponsored by SCC members will be attending the luncheon as well.

Luncheon is \$15 for SCC members. Guests and non-SCC members are charged \$20. (SCC)

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Kannat Tabla burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred in Kannat Tabla.

On Friday, Nov. 15, 2011, the victims, a local couple, parked their cars outside RJ apartment located across the street from Joeten Dandan. The victims had gone to sleep at around midnight and awoke the next morning to discover their cars broken into and items stolen.

The first car, a Blue 2005 four-door coupe Scion, had the rear passenger window broken and

coins stolen. The second car, a White 2007 Honda Civic, was broken into, and a Louis Vuitton wallet, checkbook, and some cash stolen. The total value of the stolen items is estimated at over \$700.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmi-crimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)

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I take my job seriously

» Thoughts and feelings of Alfred Pangelinan: Commonwealth government employee

Editor's Note: The following story, as related to Frank Gibson, is part of a continuing series of stories related to the effects of the new federal immigration policy, as seen from the perspective of people who will be affected by those changes.

I take my job seriously. As the director of Employment Services for the past 13 years, my official mission, and my personal intent, has been to help as many qualified U.S. workers as possible to find employment here in the Commonwealth. Sometimes I think we get a bad rap at Employment Services. Yes, we have laws and regulations to follow and that includes primary preference for U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents. There is also a secondary preference requirement for FAS citizens. There is nothing abnormal about this. The same employment requirement exists in the mainland U.S. An employer must consider and hire qualified U.S. workers before obtaining a visa and hiring an alien worker. That's the law, both here and there – and that's my job: to help employers and job seekers link up for their mutual advantage.

I know "alien" is the correct term, but it makes me think of "Alf" and less friendly creatures with big eyes, tentacles and claws. I'd rather use "foreign workers."

But...does that mean that our office is of value to U.S. workers only? Of course not. We maintain a website that lists job vacancies by those companies who choose to use it. There is no longer a legal requirement that employers use it, but it's free

and gets the job out there. So, why not? Not only is it free to the employers, it is freely accessible by any job seeker, citizen or foreign worker.

Our mandate allows us to only register qualified U.S. workers and put them on our notification list for possible jobs. That's our purpose for being—to help these folks find jobs. We counsel them, help them with their resumes, explain our procedures, and refer them to job vacancies for which they qualify. We try to arrange training. We occasionally hold job fairs. The one last month was successful. We had close to 500 workers in attendance and got their applications out to 27 participating employers. We know that at least 31 workers were employed as a result of the Job Fair. That may not sound like a large number, but we are happy with successes both large and small.

The Department of Commerce has recently received a grant for the purpose of providing training to qualified U.S. workers to help get them into jobs. We hope to be working with those organizations and agencies to identify good candidates for the training. Again, our job is to help both employers and job seekers get together.

These last few months were difficult for all of us. I can honestly say that we were not prepared to deal with it in the short notice that we had. The number of jobs being advertised, both on our website and in the newspapers, possibly half of the jobs in the Commonwealth, overwhelmed us. With the staffing that our Office has, we were unable to pursue even a fraction of the advertised jobs. The Job

Fair and some selective referrals were the best we could do. We did advertise the upcoming availability of these positions and the preference due to U.S. qualified workers, both to the individual businesses and in the newspaper.

Yes, we know that the businesses grossly overstated the qualifications for their positions in order to keep their current employees. Yes, we know that, in many cases, the interviews were perfunctory, just going through the motions, with no intent to hire. Yes, we know that many of the professional jobs were processed as CW-1s instead of H-1Bs to avoid paying a proper salary. These are violations of the Final Rule and federal USCIS regulations. We are going to leave that to the federal agencies to handle.

Not all employers did that, however. Many made sincere efforts to follow the law and it resulted in the employment of local workers. I appreciate that. No one with any decency takes pleasure in the fact that others had to lose jobs for this to happen, but it is the law, has been the law, and should have been worked out to a proper balance much earlier than now.

We are already planning for the next go of this process in 2012. We hope to work with employers in the upcoming months to identify the positions that are filled by foreign workers and try to match qualified U.S. workers to those jobs. I want to put an emphasis on "qualified." We don't want to waste anyone's time trying to misplace a worker into a position that they are not qualified to perform. At the same time, employers have to accept that they have a responsibility to provide some training, especially in an entry-level position or one that can be easily or quickly learned. Also, new hiring is usually done at a minimum qualification level, not the "masters" level advertised recently.

We want to work with the employers. This isn't an "us" against "them" sort of thing. Neither is it an "us" against "foreign workers." Where there is a need for a foreign worker to fill a position where no U.S. worker meets valid qualifications, our office has no problem with it. If the position can be filled by a local worker, then the businesses should be following both CNMI and federal laws and filling it locally. Let's face facts. We don't have enough U.S. qualified workers here in the CNMI to fill all of the current employment needs. Let's get all of those that we have that can work employed. Then there is no conflict with filling the remaining needs with foreign workers.

Work with me. Work with my office. Our job is to help you fill your positions and help qualified local workers to get and stay employed. Remember, we both have a deadline of Dec. 31, 2014. Together we can do this.

Let's both take my job seriously.



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CUC: 91 pct. of water users now metered

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is making great strides in its metering project, with 91 percent of customers now with running water meters.

CUC has been plagued with defective water meters and sub-standard meter installation. The root problem going back many years is a combination of poor field documentation, third-party meter installations, failed meter performance, and slow replacement of failed meters.

CUC deputy executive director Alan Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the agency made great progress last year in replacing failed meters as well as the documentation and/or installation of unregistered meters and accounts.

CUC records show that in August 2010, the agency had a total of 6,411 accounts to resolve. These included 2,550 smart meters that failed; 260 old meters that needed to be replaced; and 3,601 unmetered/unregistered accounts to reconcile.

As of Nov. 25, 2011, CUC only had 831 unresolved accounts, which means that a total of 5,580 cases have been resolved. Only 389 failed meters remain pending, 224 old meters that still need to be replaced, and only 406 unmetered/unregistered accounts need to be reconciled.

According to Fletcher, there were a total of 13,050 system meters as of August 2010. This figure dropped to 9,194 as of Nov. 25, 2011—a decline of 3,856 meters.

“The reason for the drop is twofold. First, due to the number of meters installed by a third-party contractor circa 2004-2005, whereas multifamily buildings were outfitted with a number of water meters equal to the number of electrical meters. Typically, only one water service was used for these buildings, leaving a number of meters in the customer database that were not actually in use and listed as unregistered accounts. Second, is a drop in customer billings due to closed businesses and residential move-outs resulting from the depressed economy,” Fletcher explained.

Fletcher said that there has also been a similar reduction in the sewer accounts, from 2,787 to 2,532—a decline of 255 accounts or a 9.2-percent drop in one year.

This drop in metered accounts has placed continued financial pressure on CUC, Fletcher said, both in reduced revenue from move-outs and the drop in the monthly fixed charges.

CUC has a pending rate hike petition for water and wastewater with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, which will decide on the matter next month.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec 2, 2002

Forbidden Island now more accessible

It is a window to a naturally artistic sight: the picture of the Forbidden Island, an isolated rock formation off southern Saipan, against the backdrop of the vast deep ocean that fades from azure to a dark distant blue as it meets the sky in the horizon. That is the sight that would greet you once you step into the newly inaugurated Forbidden Island Lookout, a windy spot hundreds of feet above sea level that serves to make the majestic view accessible to the public. Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Tom Pangelinan and Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela yesterday led DLNR officials in inaugurating the Forbidden Island Lookout.

Judge OKs BoS payments

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan has approved the request of Bank of Saipan receiver Antonio Muna to begin paying off the professional services rendered to the bank and the receivership—including his own fee—totaling more than \$100,000. Manibusan also approved Muna's report covering the period from his appointment to the receivership in late September until the end of October. Muna's fees totaled \$20,393.33. But unlike his predecessor, Randall Fennell, who got flak from some shareholders for charging at a rate of about \$100 per hour, there was no reported opposition to Muna's fees.

Dec. 2, 2003

Demolition of NMI's first hotel OK'd

The Coastal Resources Management has approved the proposed demolition of the old Royal Taga Hotel, the first hotel and modern tourist facility in the Northern Marianas after World War II. The CRM approved the demolition plan Friday, amending a major siting permit of the Saipan World Hotel, the former Saipan Diamond Hotel. Earlier, CRM director Joaquin D. Salas indicated his agency's inclination to allow the demolition due to safety concerns. Historic Preservation Office director Epiphany E. Cabrera Jr. approved the planned demolition prior to the CRM approval, noting the structural deficiencies in the old Royal Taga.

CPA revisits Saipan airport master plan

The Commonwealth Ports Authority disclosed yesterday that the proposed Saipan International Airport Modernization Plan is anticipated to generate more funds, with plans to include more concessions, malls, and other leisure-related facilities. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said the agency is now waiting for proposals from companies that are interested to carry out the project. Among the possible facilities the CPA is hoping to include in the Saipan International Airport master plan are more food concessions that may be hosted in a food court, a movie theater, and other convenience shops. The plan also includes the construction of an expanded parking area, as well as some improvement works at the sides of the existing terminal.

Dec. 2, 2004

CHC gets \$65K grant for reverse osmosis project

The U. S. Department of the Interior has awarded a \$65,000 grant to the Commonwealth Health Center for the purpose of testing a reverse osmosis system that could potentially provide potable water to the hospital. The grant was requested in October and awarded in November, through the efforts of Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio and the Office of the Governor. A firm from Taiwan that specializes in water purification, Kintech Technology Company Ltd., has offered to provide the equipment and conduct the testing for free, provided that the Commonwealth construct a concrete platform for the equipment and a shelter to protect it from the elements. The Commonwealth's estimated cost for the construction is \$65,000, and that was the amount awarded in the grant.

NMC offers 50-percent off on tuition for govt workers

Gov. Juan N. Babauta urged government employees to avail of the half-price tuition offered by the Northern Marianas College to students working in the public sector. In a Nov. 30 memorandum, Babauta announced that NMC is again offering a 50-percent discount in per-credit tuition to all government employees enrolled at the college. The Government Employees Professional Development Assistance Program was implemented starting last year to encourage civil servants to further their education.

GSA

GSA Public Buildings Service

U.S. GOVERNMENT SEEKS TO LEASE APPROXIMATELY 40,000 RENTABLE SQUARE FEET (RSF) OF EXISTING OFFICE SPACE IN SAIPAN

REQUIREMENT:

The United States Government is seeking to lease existing office and related space consisting of approximately 40,000 RSF on the island of Saipan.

The space must yield a minimum of 35,000 ANSI/BOMA ("Useable") square feet to a maximum of 36,500 ANSI/BOMA square feet of space. The anticipated term is 20 years as a fully serviced lease. The estimated occupancy date is November of 2013.

The Government requires sufficient parking for privately owned vehicles and visitor parking. Buildings offered for consideration must be of sound and substantial construction of the type generally recognized as contemporary with the ability to demonstrate meeting all current Federal/GSA-PBS and local codes and regulations including but not limited to fire and life safety, free of asbestos, accessibility (Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standard (ABAAS) compliant or, if not, landlord must be willing to make the building fully ABAAS compliant), OSHA, and seismic standards.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Expressions of interest must be submitted via email and should include the following information at minimum:

- * Building name/location
- * Location of space in the building and date it will be available
- * Drawing of space offered
- * ANSI/BOMA (usable) square feet and Rentable Square Feet (RSF) offered
- * Name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of authorized contact
- * Written evidence of authorization to represent the building's ownership

AUTHORIZED CONTACTS:

In no event shall a potential offeror enter into negotiations or discussions concerning a space to be leased with representatives of any Federal agency other than the authorized officers and employees of the General Services Administration (GSA).

Forward pertinent and complete information by e-mail to ryan.geertsma@gsa.gov by COB December 9, 2011.

\$10M CUC loan bill now goes to Fitial for approval

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidEE_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After a tension-filled debate, the House defeated and then later passed a Senate-amended bill authorizing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to borrow \$10 million from the Rhode Island-based Independence Bank so that CUC could improve its equipment and facilities to meet the requirements of stipulated orders.

The bill initially got defeated yesterday by a 9-9 vote, with two absences.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) called for a short recess and spoke with some members in his conference room. When the session resumed, the speaker asked if there's anyone who would like to change his vote.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), who initially

voted "no" changed his vote to "yes," thereby tipping the scale in favor of those who want House Bill 17-205, House Substitute 1, House Draft 1, Senate Substitute 1 passed.

The bill later passed by a vote of 10-8. It now goes to the governor for action.

The deadline to complete the loan was Nov. 30, but CUC communicated with the bank the latest development on the

bill. The Public Utilities Commission also has to review the matter again.

Those opposed to the bill were concerned that it's a public indebtedness bill, although the legal counsels and members said no. They said there's no assurance that CUC customers won't eventually pay for the debt in the form of higher power or water rates if CUC defaults on its loan payment.

299 names now on list for CK Kiosko project

The overall committee for the Leadership Memorial Courtyard project has approved and adopted the names of 299 individuals to be included on the initial list of names that will be engraved on a monument that will be built in Chalan Kanoa.

Overall committee chair Ana S. Teregeyo led the committee members in acting on the list submitted by the Credential Committee headed by Ignacio DLG Demapan at the Aging Center conference room on Wednesday.

The list initially included only 290 names. At the meeting, the Credential Committee amended the list to include Felix Aldan Ayuyu.

Committee member and for-

mer speaker Vicente T. Camacho of the Marianas District Legislature added four names: Gabriel Flores Borja, Jose Quitugua Deleon Guerrero, Juan Manibusan Diaz, and Jesus Diaz Sablan.

Project consultant William S. Torres added in four individuals who were part of the third constitutional convention: Helen Taro Atalig, John Oliver Delos Reyes Gonzales, Marian Deleon Guerrero Aldan-Pierce, and Lillian Ada Tenorio.

Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council chair Ramon B. Camacho said they will include on succeeding lists any additional names they will get. (Clarissa V. David)

Sablan wants prompt renewal of Palau Compact

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan quizzed administration witnesses yesterday on a proposed 15-year renewal of the Palau Compact of Free Association with the United States. He called for a greater sense of urgency on approval of the overdue agreement and a sense of perspective with respect to the cost of the renewal.

"We are nickel and dimeing Palau," Sablan said of the reluctance to find acceptable funding to continue the Compact with Palau for another 15 years. The proposed agreement cuts funding from the first 15-year total by 62 percent.

Sablan compared the situation to a bank "that spends a fortune to bring in new customers. Then, once they capture the customer, they charge a \$5 monthly fee and lose that customer."

The hearing took place before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. As Ranking Member of the Natural Resources subcommittee with responsibility for insular affairs, Sablan was invited to sit at the dais to question the witnesses from the State, Defense, and Interior departments, and from the Government Accountability Office.

Compact financial assistance

for Palau was scheduled to be renewed beginning with fiscal year 2011. But negotiations on the agreement were not finished in time. Further delay has resulted from the requirement to find offsetting savings in the federal budget to pay for the cost of the Palau agreement.

The administration has proposed three offsets that the bipartisan leaders of the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee have rejected. All three spending cuts come from the Interior Department's budget: abandoned mine land payments, fees on non-producing leases, and net revenue receipt sharing on minerals.

In addition to wanting offsets that are more acceptable to Congress, Sablan also expressed concern that the Interior Department, which has responsibility for insular affairs including assistance to the Northern Marianas, is already under intense budgetary pressure.

Subcommittee chair Donald Manzullo (R-Illinois) also expressed concern that the State and Defense departments were not picking up some of the responsibility for the cost of the Palau agreement.

"We're going to mark this up next year," Manzullo promised. "And I'm going to put in the

mark-up that this money comes from the three departments: State, Defense, and Interior.

"We want to get this thing done. It's too critical; it's too important; it's too strategic for us to have all this work done and then come down to these offsets that come out of [the Interior] Department that doesn't have that much to work with in the first place."

Much of the discussion at the hearing centered on the strategic importance of the U.S. relationship with Palau. Brig. Gen. Richard Simcock, principal director of South and Southeast Asia in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Asian/Pacific Security Affairs, displayed a map of the western Pacific outlining two lines of islands that

form a perimeter off the coast of China. The second, outermost chain includes Palau and the Marianas. Simcock identified the highlighted map as a product of a Chinese think tank.

"I think their position is that we have a strong position in the Pacific," Simcock advised. "And it's a strong position that we need to maintain."

In his final round of questioning and closing remarks Sablan reminded the Subcommittee again that it would be short-sighted to scrap the long-standing relationship with Palau because of present day budgetary constraints.

"They are a very patient people," Sablan said. "But patience has its limits."

"We've got to find those offsets. Only Palau can give us that kind of a bargain. Only the good people of Palau." (PR)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

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Tracking the customers

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



As we prepare to face 2012, let's glance at the recent past to get some perspective. How's July 22 sound? Good, I hope. That's the date my column noted that government spending is not just the largest segment of Commonwealth economy, but it's actually the majority of the economy. In fact, it comes to 51 percent of the CNMI economy. As large as that number is, it understates the fact, since much of the other 49 percent is actually government money flowing into the local stores in sort of an "echo" effect of government expenditures.

For the business community this information is valuable. After all, from my experience, government-based economies are extremely predictable at the street level. We can therefore cook up a list of businesses that are likely to have a strong demand on Saipan. Of course, that doesn't mean that every such business will be viable, since the market might be saturated in any given niche.

I worked for a company in the states that had retail stores in what were basically government-supported areas, essentially non-tropical versions of the Saipan economy. We were always scouting for new locations. We'd pay all sorts of money for demographic information so we could find the best places, and I had to crunch the data. But I preferred street reality to mere statistics, once I noticed that the same types of stores were prominent in every single area where we had a presence.

Like a hunter seeing tracks in the woods, I regarded these stores as signs that our target market was in the area and was spending money there.

Mind you, I'm not trying to build the ideal conceptual neighborhood here. I'm just relating what I saw. I'm not a dreamer, I'm just an analyst. Anyway, here are the most common businesses I recall noting:

- Fast food restaurants: Sometimes, from a single vantage point standing on the sidewalk, I'd be able to see a half-dozen fast food places.

- Doughnut stands: I don't have any idea how the economics of doughnuts works. But I guess those quarters and dollars must add up pretty well, judging from the ubiquity of these shops.

- Convenience stores and liquor markets: It's probably sloppy to lump these into the same category, but some convenience stores sell liquor, and some don't, so, well, there you have it.

- Beauty parlors and nail shops: Seemingly everywhere.

- Used cars and auto repair shops: Oddly enough, though I tallied many such places, I noticed that gas stations seemed to be less common in these neighborhoods. I still haven't solved this riddle.

- Dental clinics: There's always a demand for dentistry, and even people who don't show up for regular checkups will want attention when a tooth is causing pain. Managing such a practice successfully requires solid knowledge of insurance billing and of the relevant government programs.

- Pawnshops and "payday" loan stores: Some payday loan stores in the states are large, highly-sophisticated chains. As for pawn shops, they must be an international phenomenon, since the related character was on one of my Chinese tests. Now if I ever run out of money in Taipei I know what to do!

See **TRACKING** on Next Page



Families rethink values, priorities

Despite persistent income contraction from a disastrously sluggish economy, families throughout these pearly isles have used the start of the holiday season to say *Si Yuus Maase'* for all their blessings, however the lean times. It's also time used to reassess value systems.

Deepening financial setbacks have prompted a simple desire to spend more time with family. Both have served as a reality check or a wake up call to rethink family expenses. It transcends the money aspect of everyday life to one focused on securing a wealth of experience by staying closer to loved ones. Here at home we return once more to communal sharing, the very fabric that has held families together for centuries in both calm and storm.

Yes, there are those who are focused strictly on work and the wealth that comes from it. But this comes at the expense of quality time at home with loved ones. Many, however, have discovered that more money doesn't lead to happiness and so they get off the sybaritic treadmill in search of family realignment and the values that matter to them.

Ethan Willis, co-author of *Prosper: Create the Life You Really Want* and co-founder of Prospect Inc., calls it finding one's "Polaris Point," a personal philosophy or set of values that guides decision-making. I call it "dropping spiritual anchor" so you don't drift dangerously into open waters or deep blue.

"One of the big shifts is that people are questioning, 'Is the time that I'm spending bringing me greater satisfaction in my life versus something that is just on autopilot?'"

Again, we have turned to the traditional foundation of communal sharing to secure more satisfying experiences of filial love, spiritual growth, shared precious moments, and a sense of value and purpose. It is this sturdy foundation that has defined who and what we are in these pearly isles since time begun amidst the disastrous economic mess. And no matter our travails, we learn to join hands firmly and walk together through thick and thin with resiliency, a sense of comfort in the unity we have revisited and nurtured with family, time and again.

Yes, I have kept my ears to the ground if only to listen intently to the simple folks at home, their travails and triumphs at a time when hope could easily shift to hopelessness. I've heard and seen it all for I have also traveled the same road before with my peers. If anything, there's always that local resiliency to rebound by taking their future and fate into their own hands. This is another of that time to recapture the future of these isles. It's ours!

That we live in dysfunctional times isn't a reason to give it up. It is more the reason to regroup, stay the course, and set the path to recapturing these isles from the greedy, corrupt, and arrogant imbeciles. There's no room for nepotism and cronyism in the dire need to re-chart the future of the NMI. It's all in the palm of our hands.

It's up to us to learn from the harsh lessons of recent history retarded by mediocrity of leadership who never had the enthusiasm to actually lead. There is the perpetuation of an exhausted role hoping we won't catch them tiptoeing through the tulips of irrelevancy. It's time the old guards are given their one-way

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



ticket to Disneyland of Irrelevancy.

Someone once said that the water that supports the boat could also sink it. You are a living witness to this phenomenon, specifically how the water has dragged the boat to the bottom of the deep blue. We can salvage it but it takes your proactive participation to making a difference. It's all in the palm of your hands. If you wish more of the same, it's all up to you. If you wish to exercise parental responsibility to enable our children to have their economic freedom up ahead, then step forward and be counted. Your participation for real change matters to advocates of change to recapture our future.

How blessed the less fortunate that food stamps has enabled them food on the family table. I can't imagine how they could feed their children without this form of assistance. And as the economy contracts, more public sector employees who endure the fangs of austerity have availed of food stamp assistance. Pride takes second fiddle to embrace familial necessity.

It's easy to demonize the program as creating a Nanny State like the NMI. But it is equipped with the requirement that recipients find gainful employment within a specified time. This has worked well anywhere throughout the country. Either you find a job or face the dire reality of being taken off the list of recipients.

And most recipients have either found part-time or fulltime jobs to their credit. If Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is made available, this too should help families deprived of full working hours. It's available in all 50 states and territories. Imagine the fate of families without food stamps. We'd all be doing search and rescue to feed them by sharing what little we have for our own.

I remember after a superstorm when USDA items were issued to families all over. The luncheon meat and canned corned beef were really tastier than those sold in grocery stores today. Folks still talk about it to this day. There was flour, powdered milk, and other items.

We even used some of it to feed our pigs when Morley Safer of 60 Minutes visited the islands. It was a negative portrayal of life on the islands, however, fully concocted so Safer could have something exciting for his segment. This is the work of the liberal media at our expense! Gee! They never really think about the image of the islands. Very condescending!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

When leadership fails

By CRAIG H. GARRISON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The recent news regarding the tragic circumstances surrounding the Penn State handling of the child sex abuse claims by former employees and that of Syracuse coach Bernie Fine should be a wake up call for leadership at all levels. These events clearly show that the leadership of the schools failed these children at many levels. And these schools are not alone. School systems across America at every level from pre-school through college have students who are being harassed and assaulted by the very same people that are meant to protect them. And when leadership gets wind of the allegations, even when details are often graphic in nature and clear and convincing testimony attests to the crimes, leaders at the top refuse to acknowledge the crimes. Instead, they minimize their concerns by putting their district, or school's reputation above the moral imperative of not letting children be victimized by their teachers, coaches, and faculty, which will likely forever traumatize the victim. The legacies of these leaders will only be that of shame and failure to act when it mattered most.

Leadership at all levels should recognize and demand that mo-

rality and proper conduct are built into the policies and practices of their leadership roles. School districts and their leadership often state very clearly their core values are "moral," and that they base them on things like "respect, integrity, and excellence," but the reality is that there is often a significant disconnect between what they say and what they do. Hypocritical to the point that their transparency only reveals a lack of authenticity in their program and their leadership. If school systems and their leadership are to truly be accountable, they must at all times articulate the core values that they profess to be their defining culture and ensure that everyone involved at every level lives, eats, and breathes those core values with unwavering difference.

In an article published by Ronald E. Riggio, Ph.D, titled *What Happens When Leaders Fail to Lead?*, he shares an age-old adage about managers versus leaders that says, "Managers do things right... and leaders do the right thing. So leadership is about doing the right thing—and it should *always* be about that. There should never be any exceptions to that rule, because that is when leaders fail." By example, a school official reports the child abuse to the top leadership and leadership knows what is the right thing to do, but instead wavers from that path because taking the right course and doing the right thing may alienate some board or community

members and hurt the leader's chances for appointment or re-hiring. This is what happens more often than not, even at the highest levels of government office. "You can't lead effectively if your actions are motivated by staying in power, rather than taking the right actions." This is what often blinds the top leadership and helps create the rift between them and their moral obligations.

Over a decade ago, I authored a book (unpublished) titled *Americas Schools: A Haven for Practicing Pedophiles*. It researched the inside scoop on the information they didn't want you to know. Convicts and pedophiles in America's schools are found in alarmingly higher numbers each year. The research discusses the administrative decisions that are made to avert, divert, and covertly hide these people out of fear of school legal turmoil and lawsuits. It profiled hundreds of cases. However, today some 10 years later, the data is ten-fold that of my earlier research. We seem to be getting better at identifying and reporting these crimes, and the leadership of school districts seem to be getting better at covering them up. Unfortunate for the countless victims that will live with their experience forever, when leadership fails.

Craig H. Garrison is a former principal of Marianas High School and Saipan Southern High School.

Letter to the Editor

Putting the blame where it belongs

Sounds like Keith Brook is hoping for a job with Uncle Ben once we get rid of all these pesky aliens. News flash for you and Ben: What people do with their money is their business. You both have blinders on when it comes to the economy, immigrants, and aliens. If you are so worried about all this money leaving the islands, have you given any thought to the millions of dollars folks in the CNMI spend shopping online? That's a lot of money going out as well. Thought about the many foreign held companies sending their cash out of the CNMI?

Here's a crazy idea right up your alley: What about all the CNMI retirees living outside of the Commonwealth? Why not make them move back home, so they have to spend all their retirement money here? I guess for folks like you and Ben, the easiest target to blame for the CNMI problems are forces outside, aliens, and immigrants. Find *one* group to blame and ignore all the rest. As in typical Ben fashion, we can all logically assume there hasn't been any research conducted, no polls taken, no government studies performed, no reports issued, no nothing, to back up any of these insane ideas.

Another issue that has been visited long before is this: Have you thought about the tour companies in the CNMI? All that cash flowing out of the CNMI or did you just feel the need to place the blame and zero in on aliens and immigrants? Japanese tourists fly in on Japanese airlines, stay at Japanese hotels, and are managed by Japanese tour companies. How much of that money makes a U-turn right out of the CNMI? Does anyone in the government even know the numbers? This applies to Korean, Chinese, and Russian tourists as well. Hawaii had the same problem in the '70s and '80s—the only difference is that the politicians there managed to solve that problem instead of finding other folks to just blame for the situation. The CNMI government is responsible for this economic mess. It's time to stop using aliens and others inside and out of the CNMI as your scapegoats for a failed economy. Where on earth do you guys get your rationale?

Mr. Brook, you seem to be of the idea that the CNMI economy will suddenly fix itself once all the aliens are out of the islands. Again, where is your rationale? During the years when the CNMI economy was still strong and the coffers were full and hadn't yet been raided to depletion by the Governor's Office to pay for pet projects or never-ending junkets, the amount being remitted overseas was astronomical! Yet the CNMI economy thrived. What about

the uncollected, misspent, misused, and wasted millions by all the various government agencies? The uncollected millions lost from the garment factories? It would add up to an incredibly huge amount of money that could have been used to address all of the issues you are attributing to contract workers and other aliens.

Here's a thought: How about we just get Uncle Ben to do his *job*? Like, say for instance, holding accountable every government agency that collects monies from the community? Focus on getting agencies like Tax & Rev to just do their jobs correctly? It would be downright frightful to see the result of an audit performed on that agency alone and see where millions upon millions have gone uncollected. Or CHC. That's a scary thought for sure...

In your letter you blame the aliens for the following: No tax money, no repairs on the roads, austerity, lack of services, high CUC bills, dirty beaches, bad economy, the minimum wage of \$5.05, etc., etc. I fail to see how the aliens in the CNMI could possibly be responsible for *any* of that. Wait! Hold the phone! I've got it! It must be some kind of alien conspiracy! Yeah, that's it! The aliens are here working for the lowest wages in the United States of America and yet, they have the ability to cause all the ills you indicate in your letter. Which, by the way, smacks of a heavy dose of racism.

Mr. Brooks, you assign a huge amount of economical and political power to a grossly underpaid and highly disenfranchised group of people, my friend. You are also forgetting the No. 1 all-important fact here—the folks you and Ben keep harping about? They are more than likely directly related to, and or are, *U.S. citizens*. I don't think you would take kindly, Mr. Brooks, to someone trying to break up your family or screwing with your citizenship. I know I certainly wouldn't.

A more important question you might ask yourself, Keith, is why on earth would aliens want to invest or keep their money in the CNMI in the first place when it is clear that folks like yourself don't want them here? This, especially after contributing to the cultural, physical, and financial growth of our islands after all these years. If I were them, I'd send all my money out too (see my letters regarding Art. 12). Have you given any serious thought to the idea that if all the Korean, Chinese, Filipino, etc., foreign storeowners packed up and left? Another scary thought.

Another thing you obviously didn't take into account: Not all

the money aliens earn leaves the Commonwealth. They pay rent, utilities, cable, Internet, buy gas, food, beer, clothes, diapers, phones, cars, tires, electronics, eat at restaurants, go to the movies, take classes, use various other services, etc. Once they all leave, then what?

And seriously? I wouldn't want to live in a place that doesn't have the racial and cultural diversity that the Commonwealth currently enjoys. We have people here from everywhere on the globe. Together with the strong Chamorro, Carolinian, and Micronesian cultures, the mix of what everyone else has brought with them from their home countries, *that* is what makes the CNMI the truly great place to live that it is today. All this, in spite of the terrible economy. It will definitely not be as rich a cultural community if all the aliens you speak of were to leave the islands. In my opinion, it would be a downright boring and uninteresting place to live.

You talk about folks standing up and refusing to accept \$5.05 an hour. OK, you first. Then, when they turn off your power, your water, your cable, and Internet, because you had to make that painful decision to pay this or that bill and then, instead, decided that you will feed your children, see how long it will take before you go grab that \$5.05-an-hour job. You would be surprised at how many people who live in a world based on reality who would take that job *today*, because that is all that is available, unless of course, you've been lucky enough to get a government job that actually pays a living. (Well, that is, when the checks actually come out)

Again, put the blame for the low minimum wage firmly where it belongs—with the politicians who have refused to implement a fair minimum wage for the CNMI. You can't possibly blame the person who accepts a low wage job for the wage offered. They have no control over that whatsoever. I don't know about you, but when I apply for a job, I accept their offer; I don't tell them how much they are going to pay me. You take the offer or leave it. But you can bet the next guy in line will take it. I think it would be a good idea to start posting all the open government jobs in the newspaper together with the private sector, showing the total compensation and see how many applicants toss their resumes on the pile. The disparity of wages between what is offered in the private sector and what the government pays is comical, if not downright criminal.

Keith, you and folks who think like you do have jumped on the Uncle Ben bandwagon: that all the problems and ills of the CNMI were created by forces outside of our shores: the U.S. government, Homeland Security, non-locals, 9/11, aliens, etc. This is the very same tactic used by *failed* countries, politicians, and dictators to draw any attention away from their misdeeds and criminal activity. We need to find someone to blame for all our problems and make them the enemy. This will make our people look the other way. This way they won't see what we are doing and blame us. The Nazis and George W. Bush both did it and look how that turned out for everyone involved. Millions of people died in WWII and the American people, we lost many of our constitutional rights and ended up with the Pa-

TRACKING

From Page 10

- Gambling: Be it off-track-betting or lotto ticket sales, I noticed that gambling seemed highly popular in our target areas.
- Taverns and nightclubs
- Furniture and appliance rental stores
- Legal services: In our target areas I'd see more ads for lawyers than I saw actual legal offices. But the lawyers must have been somewhere, because their ads were everywhere: Bus stops, bill-

boards, phone books, and so on.

Well, that's my list. Or most of it, since I've probably forgotten one or two categories.

Still, with some minor variations for the islands, I think it's a safe assumption that these sectors account for a lot of the consumer demand in the CNMI. In other words, that's where the money flows after the government checks hit the local wallets.






If you'd prefer bookstores, symphony orchestras, and high-end bistros, then I'm with you in spirit, but Saipan chose its path with great determination. What we see is what we get. And I've seen it before, so at least there are no surprises, eh?

See PUTTING on Page 14

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. |
| ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° | ▲ 87° ▼ 76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Thundershowers | ▲ 86 ▼ 79 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲ 87 ▼ 77 |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | ▲ 87 ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Showers | ▲ 85 ▼ 78 |
| Pohnpei | Showers | ▲ 86 ▼ 75 |
| Kosrae | Showers | ▲ 86 ▼ 75 |
| Majuro | Showers | ▲ 84 ▼ 80 |

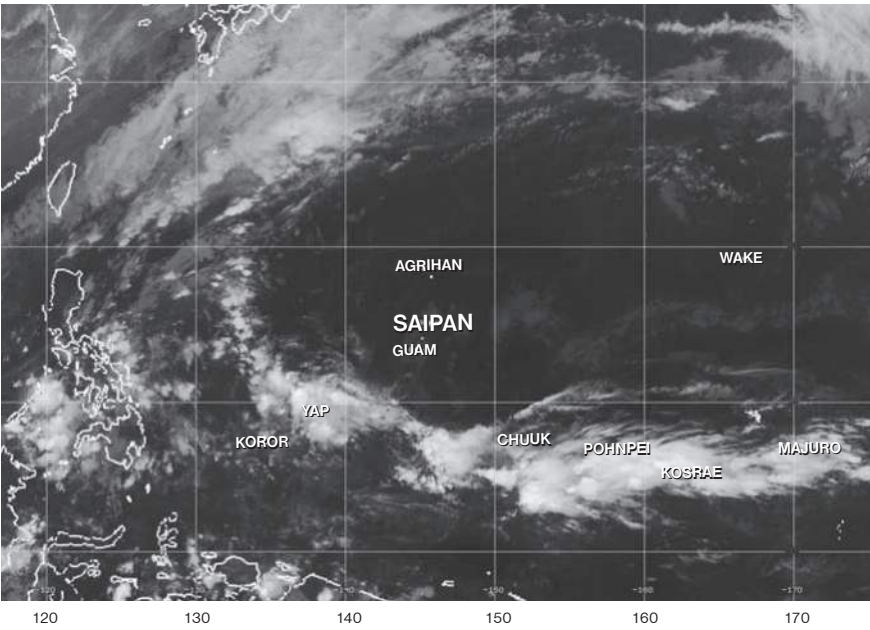
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 70 ▼ 61 |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 40 ▼ 23 |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | ▲ 69 ▼ 57 |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 82 ▼ 74 |
| London | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 43 ▼ 38 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲ 66 ▼ 44 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲ 87 ▼ 76 |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 67 ▼ 49 |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 76 ▼ 70 |
| New York | Sunny | ▲ 53 ▼ 33 |
| Osaka | Showers | ▲ 59 ▼ 52 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲ 48 ▼ 39 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲ 54 ▼ 41 |
| Rome | Showers | ▲ 64 ▼ 51 |
| Salem | Sunny | ▲ 47 ▼ 30 |
| San Francisco | Sunny | ▲ 64 ▼ 46 |
| Seoul | Showers | ▲ 43 ▼ 33 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲ 55 ▼ 48 |
| Washington, DC | Sunny | ▲ 56 ▼ 33 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|----------|
| 6:45 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.2 Feet |
| 1:53 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 8:25 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.9 Feet |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak trade wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers west of Koror, Palau, west of a line from 12N132E to 4N134E. Converging east winds along the leading edge of stronger trade winds combined with divergent winds aloft are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of the Marianas and over Yap within 120 miles of a line from 13N135E to 5N150E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over a large area including Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae generally between 8N and 2N from 150E to 168E farther east. Scattered showers are occurring over Majuro within 90 miles of a line from 6N168E to 7N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:27 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Saturday | 6:28 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Sunday | 6:28 AM | 5:45 PM |
| Monday | 6:29 AM | 5:46 PM |
| Tuesday | 6:30 AM | 5:46 PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Today | 12:03 PM |
| Saturday | 12:40 PM 12:16 AM |
| Sunday | 1:16 PM 1:03 AM |
| Monday | 1:53 PM 1:50 AM |
| Tuesday | 2:31 PM 2:37 AM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

| DEPARTURES | ARRIVALS |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) | ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) |
| C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5 | C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) | ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) |
| C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5 | C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN |
| C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP | C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP |
| C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 | C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily | C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily |
| C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 | C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 | C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 |
| C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 | C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 |
| C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6 | C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN |
| DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily | DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily |
| DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily | DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN |
| OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 | OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily |
| OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 |
| OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily | OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN |
| OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 | OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN |
| 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6 | 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN |
| 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7 | 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7 |

| | |
|---|---|
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN |
| OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN | OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT |
| C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM | C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM |
| DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT | C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM |
| C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM | OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN |
| C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM | OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM | PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM | C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau |
| C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau | C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am 1, 5 via GUM | C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM |
| C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am 3, 6 via GUM | |

| | |
|---|--|
| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN |
| OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN | OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN |
| OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN | OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN |
| C05076/179 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM | OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN | C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|----------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | | | | |
| FRE 1750 | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | Tinian-Saipan | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | | | | |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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| DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50 LBS. | | LOTUS RICE 50 LBS. | | CHICKEN LEG QUARTER | | PORK SPARERIBS | |
| \$29⁵⁵ | | \$25⁹⁹ | | \$19⁹⁹ 22# | \$25⁹⁹ 33LB. | \$13⁹⁹ 10LB. | \$21⁹⁹ 20LB. |
| TILAPIA | | MILKFISH | | VEGA SHRIMP | | SEAWAVE SQUID | |
| \$1¹⁹ /LB. | | \$1⁴⁹ /LB. | | \$5⁵⁵ | | \$1⁹⁹ BOX | \$3⁵⁵ PACK |

| PRODUCE | GROCERIES | BEVERAGE |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ORANGE | SPAM ALL FLAVORS | SUNKIST |
| 99¢ /LB. | | |
| LOCAL MANILA BANANA | OX & PALM CORNER BEEF 11.5 OZ. | KOOL-AID JAMMERS |
| 79¢ /LB. | \$2⁹⁹ | |
| GREEN CABBAGE | BLACK LABEL 15 OZ. | DIMES ORANGE JUICE 330Z. |
| 79¢ /LB. | | |
| POTATOES | PUREFOODS LUNCHEON MEAT | ASSAM MILK TEA ALL KINDS |
| 89¢ /LB. | \$1⁹⁹ | |
| US EGG EXTRA LARGE | KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.6 L. | ASAHI BLUE |
| \$2¹⁹ /DOZ. | | |
| ONION | ICHIBAN | |
| 79¢ /LB. | | |
| SIMILAC 12.4 OZ. | LUVS PAMPERS | |
| \$14⁹⁹ | | |
| LEMON POWDER CASE | TIDE 2.8 KG. | |
| \$4⁹⁹ | | |
| | COKE & SPRITE 2 LITERS | |
| | | |

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PUTTING

From Page 11

triot Act and the Department of Homeland Security (your current nemesis, Ben). Ben, Keith, I'll let you guys in on a little secret: Denial is not a river in Egypt, but that rather large parking lot at the government offices on Capital Hill. The real enemies here are the deeply entrenched, ineffective politicians of the CNMI.

Mr. Brook, you are making the bold assumption, together with Uncle Ben and his notoriously inept AG, that everyone in line to get USCIS parole status is either unemployed or will become a financial burden to the CNMI in some shape or form. That is highly doubtful at best. Where did you get your information supporting this crazy notion? Do you have any stats or hard facts to back this up? The only burden on the CNMI that anyone can plainly see is the exorbitant salaries and the inflated number of politicians with their discretionary funds, housing allowances, and travel expenses.

Mr. David M. Sablan Sr. said it perfectly in his letter the other day—the current CNMI government *has* to downsize, *has* to take salary cuts, and *has* to get out of office and let the next generation

of our best and brightest, intelligent free thinkers steer our beautiful islands in the right direction. The economy of the CNMI is in dire straits because of one thing and one thing only: inept, incompetent leadership! Most of these folks it seems can't even run their personal lives effectively and yet they are firmly in office and in control of the downward spiral of our economy. I would bet it's doubtful our elected officials could even balance their personal checkbooks without help from their wives. The people of the CNMI elect and re-elect these incompetent politicians time and time again. It's time to break the never-ending cycle of nepotism and favoritism. Next time vote for the smartest and brightest! (We all know who they are.)

Now, I'm not saying all of the CNMI's politicians are incompetent or dishonest. That wouldn't be fair by a long shot. We all know that there are many on the Hill who truly work hard, who are honest, and really want to do a good job for their constituents. But they are the folks who get bullied and marginalized by the corrupt ones who couldn't care less about the people, thereby making them ineffectual at best. Case in point: Look at how Uncle Ben treats Kilili or anyone for that matter who is *working* at getting

positive things done and trying to find solutions. All Ben can do is knock them down and interfere every chance he gets. That's business as usual for his group on Capital Hill. This is not just a do-the-right-thing because it's the right thing to do, but because it is what each and every one of you swore to do when you put your hand on the Bible and took your oaths of office: to work *for* your constituents and toward the betterment of the Commonwealth. Pretty simple it would seem.

Can you imagine if everyone on Capital Hill were to take all that negative energy they use to put each other down and put aside all the BS, park their egos, and come together to seek positive solutions to the myriad of problems the CNMI faces? ...And they all lived happily ever after, right? Too bad this is a nightmare and not a cute fairytale. Nice thought, though, but sadly we all know that will never happen, especially with the current administration.

The CNMI government, this current administration especially, has ignored fresh ideas from all areas and various folks like Tony Pellegrino, Joe Ayuyu, and others, while continuing to tax to death and ignore its only viable industry, *tourism*. They have failed to maintain our roads

and tourist sites, failed to back new tourist related businesses (not more casinos either) failed to provide security for our tourist friends, failed to catch (and keep locked up) a majority of the career criminals who make their living preying on tourists, failed to back MVA and most of all, failed the people of the CNMI to make their island home better and better each year, not worse.

For Ben and all who think he is on the right track by placing all the blame for the CNMI's ills and failed economy on outside forces, including immigrants and aliens: Wake up and smell the cow dung. You are wrong and don't have a leg to stand on, with absolutely nothing to back up these claims that it is anyone else's fault except their own. The current members of the Fitial administration need to look themselves in the eye when they look in the mirror and accept the fact that they have no clue as to what they are doing and that they have no idea what to do next or even where to start. Time to put the blame squarely where it belongs: on yourselves and the previous administrations for their failure to have the intelligence, foresight, mental creativity, and integrity to run the CNMI as it can and should be. As I've said in letters to the editor previously,

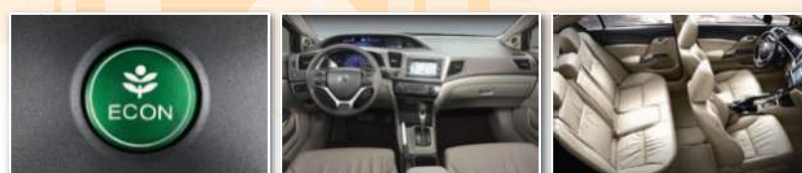
some Third World countries are run better than the CNMI.

The biggest issue here seems to be that the folks on Capital Hill can't, won't, or refuse to work and play well with each other. Who cares who gets the credit or acknowledged for fixing things and working out issues? Our politicians need to put aside their giant egos, selfish attitudes and start coming up with ideas and put our island community first. This isn't a case where if you don't like what's happening, you can take your ball and go home. The ball in this instance is the Commonwealth economy and its not going to fix itself. (I know I'll get hammered by my friends for this statement, but as self-serving and crazy as they may seem to most of us at times, at least Stanley and Froilan keep throwing stuff out there. Maybe they think if they throw out enough ideas, some of them will stick. Hopefully not, but the point I'm trying to make here is that they keep coming up with ideas. Whether we like them or not, they keep trying.)

I'll take a leap here and assume that all of you are Catholics or Christians in some form or another. Isn't it about time for a big, fat helping of Christian attitude toward each other on

See PUTTING on Next Page

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| Xterra S | BC500394 | Gray | \$4,000.00 | | | | |
| KIA | STOCK # | Color | Discount | FORD | STOCK # | Color | Discount |
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Letter to the Editor

Explain, please!

Each time readers are jolted by excitement about the positive student performance outcomes at PSS, we raise the bar on education outcomes and such assurance by our Commissioner of Education is always our desire for progressive learning among our children in all the schools in the NMI. The application of the STAR Math software on student performance and teaching strategy is a tool that makes good investment in education. I would acknowledge the Commissioner's conclusion that

student math performance and teaching effectiveness are accurately measured by the STAR Math software.

The Commissioner noted that student performance validated the teaching modalities of math teachers. This tells me that the validation tests of measures of student performance in math and teaching modalities of teachers have been studied over a period of time. If PSS is studying what they think they are studying on student performance and teaching strategies and whether the

measures they use are consistent, then the stakeholders of PSS ought to know how the statistics tells the story. The stakeholders also would have deep interest knowing the reliability of the test measures, including equivalency, stability, internal consistency, and inter-rater reliability. If the study is not explained, the Commissioner's oversimplified and generalized comment about the validity of student performance and teaching effectiveness is just plain rhetoric. I am sure the Commissioner means well, but she should engage in a more scholarly mode on this one.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

PUTTING

From Page 14

Capital Hill? Don't you think it's time to start working together to find solutions? Don't you think

its time to stop the never-ending CNMI political saga of fighting and finger pointing? Aren't you folks on the Hill embarrassed by your behavior yet? Why not start the change today? Stop looking for people and places to

blame and start accepting your political responsibility for this sad and terrible economic mess that we call home.

Paul Beebe
Spokane, Washington

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Thank you to all our volunteers, event coordinators, parents, fans, coaches, supporters and friends.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Lydia Tan
Bobby Cruz
Judy Mendieta

Ed Arriola Jr.
Kirk & Carrie Schuler
Coach Jeff Race

Ken Imaya
Edmund Robles
Becky Tenorio

GUAM DELEGATION PLAYERS AND FANS

David Lai
George Lai
Sam Lai

Peter Lai
Norman Tsang
Migu Goodman

Aki & Kazu Shintani

We would also like to thank the fine people at the American Memorial Park (National Park Service), Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa - Saipan, and the Pacific Islands Club to allowing us access to their tennis courts for our event.

THANK YOU!

We look forward to seeing you next year for the 4th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic.
Visit: www.tanholdings.com/tennis_2011 for photos and final information

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Mens 5.0 Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Todd Montgomery Runner-up : Bobby Cruz Consolation : Jeff Belzer</p> | <p>Womens 5.0 Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Thea Minor Runner-up : Mikayla Lopez Consolation : Tammy Ackerman</p> |
| <p>Mens 5.0 Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : Bobby Cruz & Lope Padilla Runner-up : Roy Pangelinan & Todd Montgomery</p> | <p>Womens 4.0 Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Nina Engelhardt Runner-up : Carol Lee Consolation : Aki Shintani (Guam)</p> |
| <p>Mens 4.0 Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Jake Lee Runner-up : Carl Dela Cruz Consolation : Paul Jang</p> | <p>Womens 4.0 Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : Thecel Minor & Joy Minor Runner-up : Lydia Tan & Sally Lee</p> |
| <p>Mens 4.0 Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : Dodong Lacbayo & Rich Asuncion Runner-up : Ryan Cho & John Kang</p> | <p>Womens 3.0 Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Alina Ishikawa Runner-up : Isabel Heras Consolation : Adele Hudkins</p> |
| <p>Mens 3.0 Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Moris Villanueva Runner-up : Kazu Shintani (Guam) Consolation : Michael Ren</p> | <p>Womens 3.0 Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : Cheiko Nagao & Sadako Arriola Runner-up : Keiko Ojima & Ayumi Kaga</p> |
| <p>Mens 3.0 Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : James Libut & Ernie Henzon Runner-up : Isagani Cortes & Don Costillo</p> | <p>Womens 40+ Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Lydia Tan Runner-up : Cleofe Santos Consolation : Sakiko Eda</p> |
| <p>Mens 40+ Singles :</p> <p>Champion : Raj Rai Runner-up : Sam Lai (Guam) Consolation : Jang Chang Wan</p> | <p>Womens 40+ Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : Lydia Tan & Sally Lee Runner-up : Cleofe Santos & Joy Minor</p> |
| <p>Mens 40+ Doubles :</p> <p>Champion : Boyet Minor & Roy Pangelinan Runner-up : Fel Kalen & Dodong Lacbayo</p> | <p>Mixed Doubles 3.0 :</p> <p>Champion : Cheiko Nagao and Ryan Cho Runner-up : Aki Shintani and Kazu Shintani (Guam)</p> |
| | <p>Mixed Doubles 4.0 :</p> <p>Champion : Thecel Minor and Boyet Minor Runner-up : Mikayla Lopez and Carl Dela Cruz</p> |
| | <p>Mixed Doubles 40+ :</p> <p>Champion : Lydia Tan and David Lai Runner-up : Migu Goodman and Sam Lai (Guam)</p> |
| | <p>Sportmanship Award :</p> <p>Girls : Malika Miyawaki Boys : Jake Lee Adult Men : Ken Imaya Adult Women : Vickie Izuka</p> |

Grand Slam sponsors:

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**NEWLYWEDS**

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Brenda and Patrick Mansfield on your wedding! May the Lord guide and bless you both in the future to come. Greetings come from the Lizama (PINALEK), Santos, San Nicolas, Mansfield, Sablan (POP), and Basa families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Plane crash survivor settles suit

Another survivor of the 2006 plane crash in Upper Dandan, Saipan, has settled her lawsuit with Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc. and other co-defendants.

Yoko Kamiyama, through counsel Bruce Berline, and the defendants, through counsel G. Anthony Long, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI Tuesday that they've agreed to have the case dismissed with prejudice.

Attorney William M. Fitzgerald, counsel for another survivor, Patrick James Timmerman, also agreed to the settlement and dismissal of their separate lawsuit.

The amount and settlement conditions were not disclosed in court papers.

The court will retain jurisdiction of the case to enforce

the settlement.

Kamiyama, a Japanese national, was among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed on a farm in Upper Dandan en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006.

Kamiyama sustained serious injuries. She sued for negligence and other claims against the pilot, Brent J. Hinkemeyer, Taga Air Charter Services Inc., Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc., and Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. She demanded over \$100,000 in damages, court costs, and

attorney's fees.

Timmerman sustained severe and permanent injuries. He is a licensed pilot who was then employed with Tinian Dynasty. When the crash happened, he was seated next to the pilot.

Timmerman sued the same defendants except Hinkemeyer, for alleged negligence. His family also joined the lawsuit as co-plaintiffs.

Tinian Dynasty had already settled the lawsuits filed by two other passengers, Tomoyuki Nagata and Dr. Jun Takimoto. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy 1st birthday to my SuperGirl niece, Brenalyn Basa Mansfield, who celebrated her special day on Nov. 21. Shoutout coming from Uncle Bo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 7th birthday to Jacody Basa Charfauros "Superman," who celebrated his special day on Dec. 1. Shoutout coming out from Grandma, Mom, Dad, siblings, and families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy birthday to James "Das" Villagomez from Dandan, who just celebrated his 40th birthday. The Office of the Mayor of Saipan wishes you a wonderful life and awesome years to come. Greetings come from Mayor Donald G. Flores and the MOS-DCP staff (Richard, Ray, Isaiah, Vin, Pete, Tin, Lenko), and entire Saipan Mayor's Office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Being too cute is just what you do. It comes really natural to someone turning 2 like you! Happy 2nd birthday to our "sonshine," Christopher Junior Bocago Sablan. We love you always and forever and wish you many more enjoyable days to come. May God bless you. Greetings come from Dad, Mom, Liyah, Naish, Nana, Nae Nae, and your Cabrera/Bocago/Sablan families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Napu Anthony Matagolai Blas, who is celebrating his special day today, Dec. 2! Although we can't wish you a happy birthday in person, we will spend the whole day with happy thoughts of you. May the good Lord continue to shower you with many blessings always. Greetings come from your 670 familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




Happy 3rd birthday to Draven John C. Tudela! Love, Dad, Mom, Jr, Franco Ray, Grandpa, Grandma, and Nina.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy, happy birthday to Ms. Dianna Aldan! Happy birthday to someone who is now forever young and beautiful! Always smile! God bless! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO




DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

2011 SAFE & SOBER CHRISTMAS YOUTH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

December 10 & 11, 2011

TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THE "Lead the Change" Workshop on December 8, 2011

at World Resort 9:00am – 3:00pm

to participate in the softball tournament

The event is a collaborative effort with: DYS, DPS, CGC, ABTC, CJP, NATIBU Sports Association

*Funded by the Community Services Block Grant & U.S. Department of Justice
(This ad is paid for from the Social Services Block Grant.)*

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AND
FOODSTAMP**

Sara Market II

CAPITOL HILL • 322-9596

Food Stamp Special

DECEMBER 2-8, 2011 • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

SHOP & LEAVE TOTALLY COMPLETE

FOOD STAMPS WELCOME • FRIENDLY SERVICE • EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
SELECTED ITEMS ARE LIMITED PER CUSTOMER • PRICES CHANGES WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Buy Any P&G Product and
Get A Chance To Win

**P&G Holiday
Gift Basket**

10 CHANCES TO WIN!!!

Leg Quarter
22 LBS. **\$19.99** **\$20.99**
3 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 2, 3 & 4, 2011
33 LBS. **\$25.99** **\$26.99**
LIMIT 1

Whole Chicken
LIMIT 1 CASE
\$38.99

Young Spare Ribs
10 LBS.
\$19.99 Limit 1

Pork Spareribs
BBQ/Adobo Cut
20 LBS. **\$22.99**
\$21.99
15 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 2, 3 & 4, 2011

Beef Back Ribs
20 LBS.
\$27.99

Gusto Smoked Ham
\$2.29
/POUND

Mackerel
SABA 22.4 LBS. **\$24.99**
PIKE (uneven weight per case) **\$1.29** /LB.

U.S. Pepsi Warm Only
12oz. reg. flavor **\$15.99** /CASE

Lotte Icis Water
500ml. x 20
\$5.99 /CASE

Jasmine Lotus Rice
50 LBS. (LIMIT 1)
\$25.99

Marukiyo's Rice Crackers
100pcs.
\$8.99 /CAN

Sapporo Ichiban
21 pcs./case (LIMIT 1)
\$9.99 /CASE

Nong Shim Bowl Noodle
12pcs./case
\$5.99 /CASE

MH Coffee Mix
100 sticks
\$6.99 LIMIT 1

Maxim Mocha Gold Coffee Mix
100 count
\$10.99

California Pizza Kitchen
385g.
\$4.99

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham
10 lbs. **\$16.99**
Bar-S Ham
10 lbs. **\$17.99**

Miller Sausage
5 lbs.
\$15.99

Chamorro Sausage
Reg/Hot 1 lb.
\$4.99

Bar-S Bacon
1 lb.
\$3.29

Spam 12 oz.
LIMIT 6
ALL FLAVORS
\$2.49

Black Label Luncheon Meat
12 oz. (Limit 6)
\$1.79

Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage
5 oz.
69¢

Beach Cliff Sardines
3.75 oz.
\$1.09

Ox & Palm Corned Beef
11.5 oz. LIMIT 6
\$2.99

Bar-S Hotdog
1 lb.
\$1.19

Seaport Imitation Crab Stick
16 oz.
\$1.99

Ground Beef
5 LBS. **\$11.99**
10 LBS. **\$19.99**

Bar-S Hotlinks
24 oz.
\$3.99

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash
15 oz.
\$1.99

Hormel Chili No Beans
15 oz.
\$1.99

DM Beef Stew
15 oz.
\$1.79

Coco Tuna
7oz.
\$1.29 Limit 6

Springfield Spaghetti & Meat Balls
15oz.
\$1.39

Mackarel/Pike Family Bag
\$6.99

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand
1 lb.
\$2.99

Ocean Best Marinara Mix
1 lb.
\$2.49

Cut Swimming Crab
1.5 lbs.
\$6.99

Excellent Bihon
\$1.09

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup
10.7 oz.
99¢

Cream of Mushroom
10 3/4 oz.
\$1.29

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn
89¢

Carnation Evaporated Milk
12 oz. (U.S.)
\$1.19

Vega Shrimp
1 lb.
\$5.99 Limit 1

Seaport NZ Green Mussels
2 lbs.
\$5.99 3 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 2, 3 & 4, 2011

Chicken Wings
3 lbs.
\$6.99
5.35 lbs. **\$12.99** /PACK

Milk Fish
\$1.59 /LB.

Dragon 100% Vegetable Oil
1 Gal.
\$9.99

AVO Vegetable Oil
1 Gal.
\$9.99

Vegetable Oil
5 Gal. LIMIT 1
\$32.99

Wesson 100% Vegetable Oil
64 oz.
\$5.99

Golden State White Vinegar
1 gallon
\$3.99

Tilapia
\$1.29 /LB.

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen
\$2.39

Onion
79¢ /LB.

Garlic
\$2.99 /LB.

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Wholes)
1 Gal.
\$6.99

Kikkoman
1.6 L.
\$3.99

Lemon Powder
5.29 oz.
\$4.99

Gold Medal Flour
5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs.
\$3.29

Korean Flour
2.5 kg.
\$3.99

Korean Butane Gas
Limit 1 Case
\$23.99 /CASE

Foam Cups
51 cnts.
\$1.99

Bounty Basic
15 ROLLS
\$16.99

Bounty 15 Rolls
\$20.99

Foam Plates
125 ct.
\$7.99

Sugar
2 kg.
\$3.29 Limit 2

Morton Iodized Salt
26 oz.
89¢

Nescafe Classic
52.5 grams
\$1.49

Big Bowl Noodle Shin Ramyun
115g. Shrimp Flavor
\$11.99 16 pcs./case

Suave Shampoo and Conditioner
(15 oz.) 2 Pcs.
\$3.00

Horse Shampoo
1 qt.
\$3.00 EACH

Charmin Basic
24 doubles rolls = 48
\$14.99

Charmin Ultra Strong
24 rolls
\$7.99

Luvs Big Pack (All Size)
\$20.99

Argo Corn Starch
Limit 3 pcs.
99¢

Kraft Cool Whip
16 oz.
\$3.49

Philadelphia Original Cream Cheese
\$2.99

Maxwell House
34.5 oz.
\$9.99

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name
100 cnts.
\$1.50

Diamond Foil
200 Sq. Ft.
\$7.99

Bottled White Candle (China)
12 pcs/case
\$14.99 /CASE

Scott Napkin
250 sheets
\$3.49

Joy Ultra Lemon Diswashing
90 oz.
\$7.99

Country Time Lemonade
2.33 Kg.
\$8.99

Tang
22 qts.
\$7.99

Lipton Ice Tea
4 oz.
\$6.99

Kool Aid
5 lbs.
\$8.99

| FAMILY BAG SPECIAL | | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| BEEF SHANK | \$10.95 | STEWING CHICKEN | \$6.95 |
| FLANK STEAK | \$16.95 | TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG) | \$4.99 |
| PORK ADOBO | \$10.95 | U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS | \$15.99 |
| PORK CHOP | \$11.95 | BEEF BACK RIBS | \$7.95 |
| PORK BELLY | \$11.95 | BEEF OXTAIL | \$16.95 |
| BEEF STEW | \$12.95 | RIBEYE STEAK | \$17.95 |
| BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK | \$14.95 | SMOKED HAM STEAK | \$12.95 |
| PORK BUTT | \$10.95 | | |

Crisco Shortening
3 lbs.
\$5.99 Butter

Milo
1kg.
\$4.99

Nescafe Classic
210g.
\$5.99

Real Fresh Milk (Reduced/Regular)
\$2.19 /CASE

Enfamil Premium Lipil
16x8oz. RTF
\$4.19 /CASE

Coke Regular
24/Case Warm Only
\$13.99

Shasta Cola (warm only)
12oz.
\$12.99 /CASE

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only)
\$12.99

Pepsi 330ml. Warm Only All Flavors
\$14.99 /CASE

Budweiser/Budlight
24/Case Warm Only
\$28.99 3 DAYS ONLY
DEC. 2, 3 & 4, 2011

Miller Lite
24/Case Warm Only
\$26.99

Business

Obama: 'Massive blow' if GOP blocks payroll tax

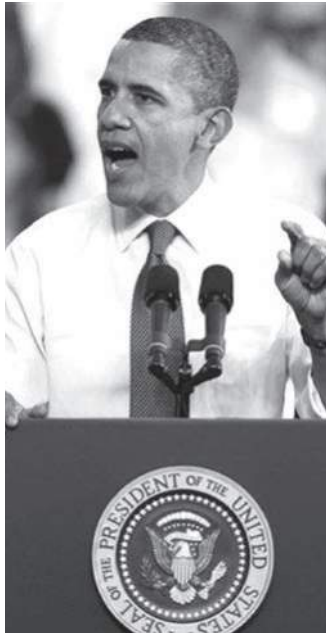
SCRANTON, Pa. (AP)—Blending governing with re-election politics, President Barack Obama roused a cheering northeast Pennsylvania crowd Wednesday as he warned of a “massive blow to the economy” if Republicans block a payroll tax extension because of his insistence on a millionaires’ tax. Obama took to the road with a dual pitch for money, campaigning for more cash in the pockets of U.S. workers—and for his campaign treasury as well.

Obama pressed his case at a campaign-style rally in working-class Scranton, Pa., where he said Republicans had to choose between lower taxes for the wealthy, or a payroll tax cut

that would help working Americans. Republicans say they would support extending the payroll tax cut, but reject new taxes to offset the costs.

“Are you going to cut taxes for the middle class and those who are trying to get into the middle class, or are you going to protect massive tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires?” he said. “Are you going to ask a few hundred thousand people who have done very, very well to do their fair share or are you going to raise

President Barack Obama gestures as he speaks at Scranton High School in Scranton, Pa., Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011.



taxes for hundreds of millions of people across the country?”

Obama was traveling later Wednesday to donor-rich New York City to raise money for his already flush re-election bid, in a day illustrating the dual policy and political demands on the president as the 2012 campaign season nears.

The populist pitch in Scranton and the fundraisers in New York served as political bookends for the president. He first rallied the type of working-class crowd that would benefit from the tax cuts and then appealed for campaign contributions from donors, many of whom would be the ones to shoulder the tax increases Obama supports.

FAA issues single operating certificate to United Airlines, Continental Airlines

CHICAGO—United Continental Holdings, Inc. announced yesterday that it received Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval for a single operating certificate, marking another significant achievement in the integration of United Airlines and Continental Airlines. This regulatory milestone, while significant from an operational policies and procedures perspective, does not change how

customers interact with the airline. Customers of United and Continental will continue to shop for flights, obtain seat assignments and check flight status on each carrier’s respective website until the company migrates to a single passenger service system in the first quarter of 2012. At that point, from a customer’s perspective, the two carriers will function as one airline.

“I would like to thank the teams at United, Continental, the FAA, the Department of Transportation and the many regulatory authorities around the globe who put tremendous time and effort into our achieving a single operating certi-

cate,” said United’s president and chief executive officer, Jeff Smisek. “While we have much work ahead of us as we integrate these two great carriers, this is a significant milestone.”

The two carriers went through a rigorous 18-month process of aligning operating policies and procedures to obtain a single operating certificate from the

FAA. A team of more than 500 employees from both carriers

worked together to evaluate closely each pre-integration program, process and operating specification from both airlines to determine the best choice for the new United. The team streamlined more than 440 operational manuals, programs and procedures down to approximately 260 manuals for the new United—a process that involved roughly 2,000 changes.

Effective today, air traffic control communications will refer to all United and Continental flights as “United.” United and Continental announced their merger in May 2010 and closed the transaction on Oct. 1, 2010. **(United Continental)**

United Airlines



Move by central banks exhilarates Wall Street

By DANIEL WAGNER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

A move by the world’s central banks to lower the cost of borrowing exhilarated investors Wednesday, sending the Dow Jones industrial average soaring 490 points and easing fears of a global credit crisis similar to the one that followed the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers.

It was the Dow’s biggest gain

since March 2009 and the seventh-largest of all time.

Large U.S. banks were among the top performers, jumping as much as 11 percent. Markets in Europe surged, too, with Germany’s DAX index climbing 5 percent.

“The central banks of the world have resolved that there will not be a liquidity shortage,” said David Kotok, chairman and chief investment officer of Cumberland Advisors.

“And they have learned their lessons from 2008. They don’t want to take small steps and do anything incrementally, but make a big bold move that is credible.”

Wednesday’s action by the banks of Europe, the U.S., Britain, Canada, Japan and Switzerland represented an extraordinary coordinated effort.

But amid the market’s excitement, many doubts loomed. Some analysts cautioned that

the banks did nothing to provide a permanent fix to the problems facing heavily indebted European nations such as Italy and Greece. It only buys time for political leaders.

“It is a short-term solution,” said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank. “The bottom line on any central bank action is that it papers over the problems, buys time and in some respects takes pressure from politicians. ... If nothing’s done in a week, this market gain will disappear.”



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-003

Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Urgent Repair of Fuel Tanks Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Piping, Rota Power Plant, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The tanks have been cleaned and undergone API inspections and they are not currently in use. The piping or part of the piping may still be in use and they would be emptied by CUC and handed over for the necessary work through a mutually arranged schedule with the winning contractor. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

The Scope-of-Work and Proposal package will be emailed, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 100.00 for one set, upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM local time, until December 9, 2011.

A Pre-Proposal Conference followed by a mandatory site visit is scheduled for **November 28, 2011 at 10:30 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant No. 1, Songsong village, Rota to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Seven(7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “RFP-12-003 – Urgent Repair: Fuel Tank Nos. R1, R3, R4 & Pipeline, Rota Power Plant” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **December 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

The Offeror is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor’s Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

A Proposal Guarantee of 15 percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred (100%) percent* of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposers. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code, with the proposal.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 (ChST) on December 9, 2011**, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Procurement & Supply Manager via email at msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Mika Muna via email at mika.muna@cucgov.org; Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Project coordinator SO 2 via email at venu@cucgov.net and Mr. Edward Chargulaf, Technical Manager for Oil via email at ed.char@cucgov.org.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the interest of the government.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-004

SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION (Phase No. 2)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP) to supply electrical energy and other products generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) systems for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The solicitation seeks responses from suitably qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation PV facilities that best fit the CUC requirements. Selected IPPs will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in this RFP. The scope of services requested in this RFP shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational Generating Facilities.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **December 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Center in Saipan.

One (1) original and Six (6) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-12-004 “Solar Photovoltaic Generation (Phase No. 2)” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **December 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **December 09, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika.muna@cucgov.org; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

APPLY NOW CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS AVAILABLE



FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO
SERVE AND LEARN AT THE
UNITED STATES SERVICE
ACADEMIES

CONGRESSMAN SABLAN CAN NOMINATE STUDENTS FOR THE
AIR FORCE AND MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMIES, AND THE
MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT.

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

United States citizens
High school graduates
Ages 17 to 23
Unmarried, with no dependents



SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE:

A strong academic background
The ability to pass a physical
aptitude test
Sound moral character

More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 15, 2011.

Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Nation

Cain plows ahead but says yet again: reassessing

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—His campaign's survival in question, Herman Cain plowed ahead Wednesday in an effort to move past a woman's allegation that they had a longtime affair. But he acknowledged the toll was rising and said he would decide by next week whether to drop out of the Republican race.

Publicly, there were no signs that the former pizza company executive was calling it quits in his campaign for the presidential nomination. In fact, it was just the opposite: Aides were moving

ahead with plans for events in New Hampshire, Tennessee, South Carolina and Georgia and prepared to launch a fresh round of TV ads in Iowa.

And Cain himself, on a one-day bus tour of Ohio, insisted he was seeing "a groundswell of positive support" after the latest allegation threatening his campaign. Still, he acknowledged "we are re-assessing and we are re-evaluating" in light of the woman's account, which



Cain

followed accusations of sexual harassment by other women in recent weeks.

In an interview on Fox News late Wednesday, Cain said the controversy has taken an "emotional

toll" on his wife, Gloria.

"I've got to think about my family first, especially my wife," Cain said. "This is why we are reassessing."

He said he would exit the race if the price proved too high and

he would make a decision by the middle of next week at the latest.

At his campaign stops, he renewed what has become a familiar defense: that he is the victim of attacks by liberals and the establishment, who are threatened by his outsider appeal.

"They want you to believe that with another character assassination on me that I will drop out," a defiant Cain told a crowd of about 200 in Dayton. The boisterous crowd greeted him with shouts of "no!" and "boo!"

"One of the reasons they are

trying to shoot me down and tear me down is the strength of my message that resonates with the American people," he said.

Cain drew enthusiastic crowds in three appearances in the state. Though there were signs that some in early voting Iowa and New Hampshire were reconsidering their support—and political veterans were beginning to suggest his campaign's days were numbered—some backers here said they were deeply skeptical of the mounting allegations.

Ex Colo. sheriff accused of offering meth for sex

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—The ex-Colorado sheriff was known for his no-nonsense style, his heroism in saving two deputies and for his concern about teenage drug use. He was even named the nation's sheriff of the year.

Patrick Sullivan, 68, found himself on Wednesday in a jail

that was named for him, facing charges of offering methamphetamine in exchange for sex from a male acquaintance.

Dressed in an orange jail uniform and walking with a cane, a handcuffed Sullivan watched as a judge raised his bail amount to a half-million dollars and sent him to the Patrick J. Sullivan Jr.

Detention Facility.

Sullivan's arrest has many in suburban Denver's Arapahoe County where he held sway for nearly two decades wondering what happened to the tough-as-nails lawman they once knew.

"This isn't the Pat I know," said Peg Ackerman, a lobbyist for the County Sheriffs of Colo-

rado who often worked with him on legislation. She said he was concerned about drug use in schools and was a chief of security at a school district.

The current sheriff, Grayson Robinson, who worked as undersheriff for Sullivan from 1997 until he took over the job in 2002, said the department

was shocked and saddened at his arrest.

Robinson said the case is still under investigation, including where and how Sullivan might have gotten the drugs. He declined to say if authorities suspect Sullivan of using drugs, or if others might be charged.

At the brief court hearing, Judge William Sylvester told Sullivan not to contact anyone involved in the case.

ACROSS THE NATION

Arizona man who murdered 9 sentenced to death

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona jury on Wednesday sentenced a man to death for killing nine people during a spree that terrorized the Phoenix area, rejecting the man's pleas for mercy and denials of guilt and agreeing with prosecutors that the killings were especially cruel. Jurors reached the verdict about a month after they found 47-year-old Mark Goudeau (goo-DOH') guilty of the nine murders and 58 other charges, including kidnapping and rape. They sentenced him to death on each of the nine murder counts. Goudeau was accused of attacking his victims as they went about daily activities, such as leaving work or washing their car. He left most of them with their pants unzipped and partially pulled down.

Couple held without bond in bloody saw slaying

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A judge ruled Wednesday that a couple charged with killing a neighbor whose body was found outside in a box will be jailed without bond until an evidentiary hearing. Anthony Stiger and Melanie Costantini, both 20, said nothing Wednesday during their appearance in Las Vegas Justice Court, where a judge accepted not guilty pleas on their behalf. They were arrested Nov. 14 in Southern California after the body of 58-year-old Harold Myles Shilberg was found Nov. 9 outside an apartment building on East Fremont Street in Las Vegas. His body had multiple cuts.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.mp>



NOTICE OF SALE UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

Francisco L. Kaipat, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 21, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 26, 2001 under Document No. 01-268 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 128 D 51, (formerly known as part of Lot 018 D 57), containing an area of 620 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 128 D 00 the original of which was recorded 07 DEC 99 as Document No. 99-2896 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Amended Notice of Default on September 21, 2011. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Monday, December 5, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. **The minimum bid offer shall be not less than \$70,504.00 the total amount due under the VA loan.**

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 2nd day of November, 2011.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

Lot No.: 128 D 51
Area: 820 m²
Gross Living Area: 1,201 Ft²
Location: Adilanto Loop, Sugar King Estates, Saipan
3 BR, 2 Bath
Minimum Bid: \$70,504.00
Bid Date: December 5, 2011
Bid Time: 10:00 a.m.
Bid Place: NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan



MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL &
INSURANCE SERVICES
GROUP, INC.,
Plaintiff,

-v-
DONALD C. CAMACHO,
Defendant.

CIVIL
ACTION
NO.
09-0458
FIRST
AMENDED
NOTICE
OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56, which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of November, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Asia

Court orders Arroyo transferred to govt hospital

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court on Thursday gave former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo five days to move to a government hospital after she was arrested on electoral fraud charges at a high-end private medical facility. Her allies decried the move as a political vendetta. Prosecutors say Arroyo should not receive preferential treatment. They want her detained in jail like any other suspect, but her lawyers say she is suffering from a bone ailment. Doctors who last week said

she was fit to be discharged testified Thursday that she needs additional treatment for a colon inflammation she developed in recent days. Arroyo’s lawyers want her held under house arrest at the private hospital or at home while she fights the charges. President Benigno Aquino III’s government, vowing to uproot corruption and blaming Arroyo for graft while she was in power, have refused to let her travel overseas for medical treatment, even after the Supreme Court ruled in her

favor. She wore a head and neck brace as she was turned away from the Manila airport last month. The arrest of Arroyo, who survived several coup attempts sparked by corruption allegations during her nine-year presidency, has galvanized the Philippines. Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay Regional Trial Court gave Arroyo until next Tuesday to transfer from the private hospital where she was arrested last month to a government medical facility.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clinton tests reforms on historic visit to Myanmar

NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar (AP)—Looking to cement a foreign policy success and prod democratization in one of the world’s most isolated and authoritarian nations, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton sought Thursday to test the willingness of Myanmar’s leaders to expand nascent reforms. On a historic visit here, Clinton said she was hopeful, but not yet convinced, that “flickers of progress” in the Southeast Asian country will burst into flames of change. Her diplomatically risky trip to a nation that receives few outsiders and still heavily restricts what its people can see and read is meant to test whether new civilian leaders are truly ready to throw off 50 years of military dictatorship. U.S. officials said she would also press the leadership on severing military and suspected nuclear ties with North Korea.

NATO: Pakistan resumes some cooperation

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Pakistan resumed some cooperation with U.S.-led forces in Afghanistan following NATO strikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers by working with the coalition to prevent another cross-border incident from escalating, a spokesman said Wednesday. The weekend airstrikes have severely strained the already troubled relationship between Pakistan and the U.S., jeopardizing Washington’s hopes of enlisting Islamabad’s support in winding down the Afghan war. Pakistan is still outraged by the soldiers’ deaths and has retaliated by closing its Afghan border crossings to NATO supplies, demanding the U.S. vacate an air base used by American drones and boycotting an international conference aimed at stabilizing Afghanistan.

World

Europeans face historic choice: unite or divide?

BRUSSELS (AP)—The European Union rose from the ashes of World War II, a conflagration that pitted the continent’s great powers against each other and left scars on the land and the mind alike. And from the start, the question was whether this unique experiment in goodwill would ever become a United States of Europe, where co-operation ranked ahead of nationalism. Now the time for the decision is at hand. People on

the continent face a historic choice that is as much about themselves as it is about their money: Do they see themselves going forward primarily as Europeans or governed as French, Germans, Italians, Spaniards and so on? The immediate cause of the urgency is the precarious state of the euro, the currency shared by 17 EU countries. It is teetering on brink of break-up precisely because that basic question has never been answered. The euro’s woes

have shown that, with respect to a currency, halfway integration doesn’t work. Diverging national plans have been out of whack with a united monetary policy. And political leaders have said that if the euro fails, the EU may well follow. “We have to show that the euro is an irreversible project—an irreversible project,” EU President Herman Van Rompuy said Wednesday, using the repetition almost as if to convince himself.


WORLD BRIEFS

Gunman wounds 2 near Istanbul’s Topkapi Palace

ISTANBUL (AP)—A heavily armed man opened fire at one of Istanbul’s main tourist attractions on Wednesday, wounding a Turkish soldier and a security guard before police snipers killed the attacker, officials said. The motive for the assault at Topkapi Palace was not immediately known. But police said the man, a Libyan with Syrian citizenship, had entered Turkey only three days ago. Police said the attacker arrived at the palace in a car with

Syrian license plates. Minutes before the attack, Turkey’s Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu had announced tough economic sanctions on Syria to protest its government’s crackdown on an 8-month-old pro-democracy uprising. **Britain orders Iran’s diplomats to leave UK** **LONDON** (AP)—Britain ordered all Iranian diplomats out of the U.K. within 48 hours and shuttered its ransacked embassy in Tehran on Wednesday, in a significant escalation of tensions between Iran and the West. The ouster of the en-

tire Iranian diplomatic corps deepens Iran’s international isolation amid growing suspicions over its nuclear program. At least four other European countries also moved to reduce diplomatic contacts with Iran. The British measures were announced by Foreign Secretary William Hague, who said Britain had withdrawn its entire diplomatic staff after angry mobs stormed the British Embassy compound and a diplomatic residence in Tehran, hauling down Union Jack flags, torching a vehicle and tossing looted documents through windows.



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2375
Fax: (670) 664-2408

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
A&E DESIGN of the KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT MARPI, SAIPAN
RFP12-GOV-022**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Architectural & Engineering Design of the Kalabera Cave Development Project, located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 (Local Preference Act) as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A&E services required will be available on Monday, December 05, 2011, at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US \$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or fax to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4:00 p.m. ChST December 20, 2011.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project descriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

| | | |
|----|---|-------|
| 1. | Qualifications and Background of the Company(s) and proposed assigned personnel | - 25% |
| 2. | Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects | - 25% |
| 3. | Project Approach and Schedule for Completion | - 25% |
| 4. | Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required | - 25% |
| 5. | Fee Proposal | - 0% |

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) two hundred dollars (US\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.


Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**RFP12-GOV-022, A&E Design of the Kalabera Cave Development Project**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, January 04, 2012. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, January 04, 2012, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, January 04, 2012, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than January 17, 2012 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.


The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works**
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW12-RFP-001**

Historic and Building Condition Assessment for the Proposed Construction of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center, Navy Hill Saipan.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Historic and Building Condition Assessment for the Proposed Construction of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument Visitors Center, Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures will be in full compliance with **§ 70-30.3-305** of the regulations. However, the project is funded under Federal Grant, Article 7 "Local Business Preference is not applicable.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, any company, corporation or partnership "firm" must obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (**COA**) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Board of Professional Licensing (CNMI BOPL). Individuals and/or sole proprietors are required to possess a valid professional license issued by the CNMI BOPL.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after **November 18, 2011** at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Capitol Hill, Saipan. **A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. local time at the Joeten Commercial Bldg, Gualo Rai on December 06, 2011.** Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Director, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **December 19, 2011**.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, *cannot* submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- Qualifications and Background of the Company– 50%:** Professional background and caliber of key staff and personnel and demonstrated technical capability. Current and recently completed project that substantiate a the firms aptitude for projects of similar size, scope, and requirements. The team must have post-secondary educational design experience either thru an employee, join venture or consultant.
- Organization and Capacity– 35%:** Capacity of firm and proposed lead designers to fulfill Project requirements within the current workload, including the Project Schedule. and
- Response to RFP-15%:** Quality and completeness of response to the requirements of this RFP.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW12-RFP-001**". For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **December 22, 2011**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **December 22, 2011** and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, **December 22, 2011** and must be received no later than **January 03, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (**120**) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. .

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made, therefore, negotiation shall be conducted with the highest qualified firm at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Financing for the Project is directly under the successful award of NOAA Grant NA10NOS4290155.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

All submitted proposals received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
Acting Secretary
Department of Land and Natural Resources

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: 2 upstate NY kids call 911, ask for Santa

KINGSTON, N.Y. (AP)—No, Virginia, you can't call 911 and ask for Santa Claus. That's what two young children in New York's Hudson Valley have learned. The Daily Freeman of Kingston reports that around 11 a.m. Sunday, police in the city of Kingston responded to a home after two children, ages 4 and 6, called 911 asking to speak to either the police chief or Santa Claus. Police say officers interviewed the family and kids, and instructed the youngsters on the proper use of emergency services.

Dog steps on gun, shoots Utah hunter in buttocks

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah bird hunter was shot in the buttocks after his dog stepped on a shotgun laid across the bow of a boat. Box Elder County Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Potter says the 46-year-old Brigham City man was duck hunting with a friend when he climbed out of the boat to move decoys. Potter says the man left his 12-gauge shotgun in the boat and the dog stepped on it, causing it to fire. It wasn't clear whether the safety on the gun was on at the time. Potter says the man was hit from about 10 feet away with 27 pellets of birdshot. He says the man wasn't seriously injured.

Elderly man returns cash stolen from Sears in '40s

SEATTLE (AP)—The manager of the Sears store in downtown Seattle says an elderly man has repaid—with interest—cash the man says he stole in the late 1940s. KING-TV reports that the man hand-delivered an envelope Monday addressed to "Sears manager." Inside were a note and a \$100 bill. The note said the man stole \$20 to \$30 from a cash register decades ago and wanted to pay back \$100. Manager Gary Lorentson says he thinks the man's conscience "has been bothering him for the past 60 years."

Bank courier van loses bags of cash on Pa. highway

UPPER ST. CLAIR, Pa. (AP)—A bank courier van has spilled more than \$100,000 in cash along a Pennsylvania highway, and motorists have stopped to grab it. Police say much of the money was blown around by the wind. Lt. James Englert says "well into six figures" in cash is missing after the money grab in Upper St. Clair, just southwest of Pittsburgh. Police are investigating why the door of the Fidelity Courier Service van opened. But they say the fact the door opened doesn't mean the money was free. They say taking it is theft.



**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION FOR BID
IFB12-OHS-021**

SUBMISSION DATE: DECEMBER 19, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE AND DELIVERY OF
FOUR (4) PORTABLE GENERATORS FOR
THE OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY"**

PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS MAY RETRIEVE A COPY OF THE COMPLETE CONTENTS OF THE INVITATION OF BIDS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO ohs.delacruz@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**JOB AVAILABILITY SECTION
1200 BLOCKS, CAPITOL HILL
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950**

Telephone no. (670) 664-3190 Facsimile no. (670) 322-4365

On behalf of the Secretary of the CNMI Department of Labor, his staff and management, I would like to thank the following employers for their participation on November 02, 2011 Job Fair that the department had sponsored. They are as follows:

1. Abhu Auto Care Center
2. Alexander Inc.
3. Blue sky/ QQ Rent Car
4. Commonwealth Utilities Corp.
5. Chalan Kanoa Beach Club
6. Fiesta Saipan Hotel
7. Hafa Adai Beach Hotel
8. Hyatt Regency Saipan
9. J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc.
10. Jang Co. Ltd./Keum Corp., JMD Global/Tour Wide Corp.
11. LSG Sky Chefs
12. MP Corporation
13. M.S. Villagomez
14. Marianas Fast Food Inc. DBA KFC/TACO BELL
15. Marianas Resort & Spa
16. Nippon General Trading Corp. DBA Country House/Moby Dick Rest.
17. Northern Marianas Trade Institute
18. Saint Trading Company
19. Saipan Grand Hotel
20. Saipan Ice & Water Company Inc./Saipan Sea Ventures Inc.
21. Saipan Stevedore
22. Scarlet Corporation
23. T.K. Holdings Inc./Victoria Hotel/Gentle Brooks/Gadget Freak
24. Triple J Saipan Inc.
25. WorkForce Investment Agency

Further, I would like to extend a special thank you to Marianas Variety, Saipan Tribune and KCNM and KCMI for their effort in promoting such event.

/s/ **Alfred A. Pangelinan**
Director, Employment Services

Science & Technology

Use TV straps for child safety

By DUAA ELDEIB
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—When parents buy a new TV they're unlikely to find in the box a simple tool that could save their child's life—safety straps or anchors to keep the television from tipping over—because manufacturers aren't required to include them.

And parents who look to purchase the straps after the fact may have to hunt them down, because a number of stores that sell TVs don't offer the straps.

Safety experts are calling for the inclusion of such devices in light of disquieting statistics: More kids were killed in accidents involving falling TVs between 2000 and 2010 than

by all other unstable furniture or appliances combined, according to a September report released by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

"It's a very serious problem that is not going away," said Scott Wolfson, spokesman for the Consumer Product Safety Commission. "These are young children taken too soon."

Nearly 70 percent of fatal tip-overs between 2000 and 2010 involved TVs, accounting for the deaths of 169 children, the commission reports. TVs are also the chief culprit in tipover-related emergency room visits, with an annual average of 13,700 injuries, the report states.

The responsibility is a joint

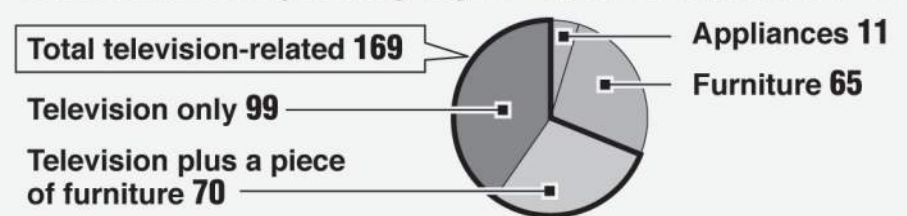
one, shared by parents, the safety commission and those who make and sell TVs, Wolfson said.

"We want the industry to get engaged in this process," he said. "We want companies to be as active as we are. If the manufacturer doesn't provide (straps), we want the retailers to sell (them) and to do so in a prominent place that's easily accessible to parents."

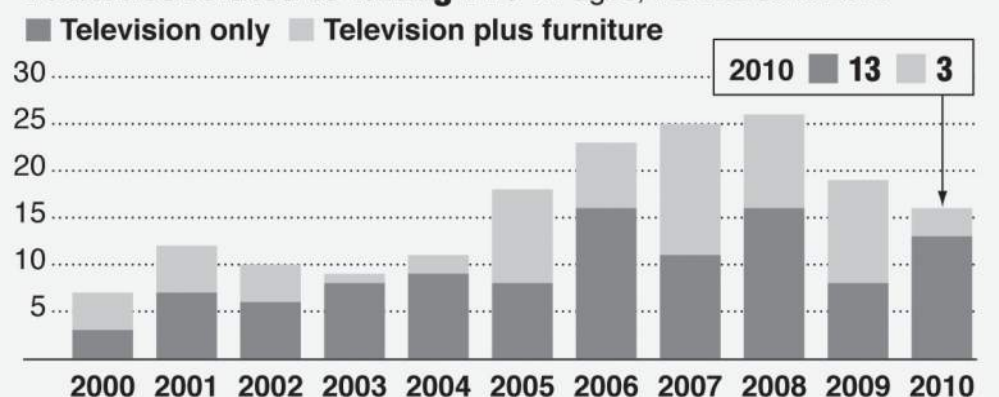
Northbrook, Ill.-based Underwriters Laboratories, which tests the majority of TVs on the market, sets voluntary safety standards for TVs and stands. Raising awareness on the perils of falling TVs has been a priority, said UL's consumer safety director, John Drenenberg.

Televisions accounted for 69 percent of fatalities related to falling objects in the U.S. from 2000 to 2010. Children made up 96 percent of TV-related fatalities, and on average 13,700 children visited emergency rooms annually for injuries related to falling TVs.

Child fatalities by falling object Ages 1 to 17, from 2000 to 2010

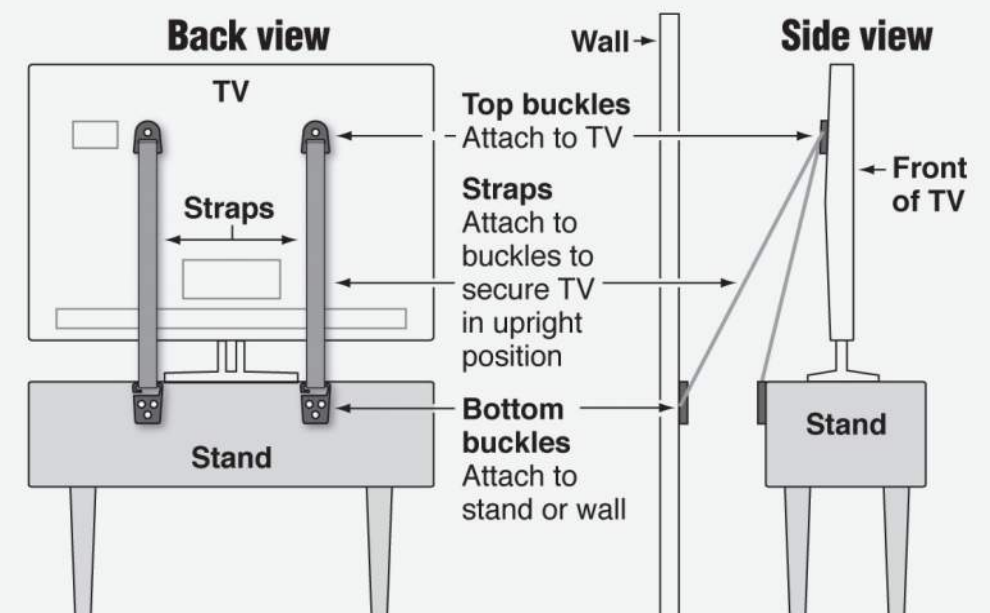


Fatalities related to falling TVs All ages, from 2000 to 2010



Securing TV to prevent tipping

Safety advocates have said that straps, which can greatly reduce the risk of tip-over injuries and fatalities, are one of the easiest and most inexpensive ways to anchor a TV. Some advocates are calling for the straps to be included with TVs at the time of purchase.



Source: KidCo, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

© 2011 MCT

Life & Style

Kanye gets 7 Grammy noms; Adele, Mars, Foos get 6

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY**
AP MUSIC WRITER

Adele scored six Grammy nominations on Wednesday, including for record, song and album of the year, but the owner of the 2011's best-selling album with "21" wasn't the night's top nominee—and that wasn't the evening's only surprise.

Kanye West came away with a leading seven nominations, including a bid for song of the year for his all-star song "All of the Lights." However, the album from which it came—"My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy," heralded by many critics as the best album of 2010—was not in the best album category, and all of his other nominations were relegated to the rap fields.

Other notable omissions in the top categories included country phenomenon Taylor Swift and veteran crooner Tony Bennett.

Bruno Mars and the Foo Fighters tied Adele with six nominations each, including in the album of the year category. Lil Wayne had five nods and critical-darling folk act Bon Iver scored four nominations, with two in the prestigious record and song of the year categories. But dubstep star Skrillex may have been the night's biggest surprise, getting five nominations, including a bid for best new artist.

"It feels incredible. Me and these guys, we locked ourselves in the studio not too far from here and worked on this album, especially 'Grenade,'" Mars said after the nominations were announced. "That's the song we worked the hardest on. That's like our trophy right there. Of all the songs we've been fortunate enough to be a part of this year, we were most proud of that one."

The nominations were announced after the Recording Academy's fourth annual live concert special, which aired on CBS from the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles. The hour-long event featured key nominees like Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Nicki Minaj and the Band Perry.

Even though Adele didn't get the lion's share of nominations, she got them where it counted: Her "21," the mournful post-breakup album that produced smash hits like the torch ballad "Someone Like You"—was nominated for album of the year. The searing groove "Rolling in the Deep," which spent seven weeks at No. 1 this past summer, got nominations for both record and song of the year. Only Mars got nominations in all three categories as well.

Other nominees in the record of the year category included Bon Iver's ballad "Holocene"; Mars' ballad "Grenade"; Mum-

ford & Sons' "The Cave"; and Katy Perry's inspirational anthem "Firework." For song of the year, which honors the writers of the tune, contenders included "The Cave," "Grenade," "Holocene" and Lady Gaga's "You and I."

The best album category was as noteworthy for who was excluded as it was for who was nominated. Lady Gaga garnered her third straight nod in the category for "Born This Way," while veteran rockers the Foo Fighters were nominated for "Wasting Light," along with Mars' debut album, "Doo-Wops & Hooligans," and Rihanna's steamy dance album "Loud."

Shut out were perceived favorites like 85-year-old Bennett, who became the oldest person to score a No. 1 debut when his "Duets II" album was released earlier this year, and the megawatt collaboration of Jay-Z and West with the heavily hyped "Watch The Throne."

The biggest snub may have been to Swift, who won in the category in 2010 and was considered by some critics to be a favorite for "Speak Now," which has sold 3.7 million copies. She did get three nominations, however, including for best country album.

(Another blonde diva, Beyonce, merited just two nomina-

tions in lesser categories).

Unlike the past two years, which saw Swift and fellow country act Lady Antebellum soar in the general categories, the only country act that got a mainstream nomination was the country sibling act The Band Perry. Best known for their poignant ballad "If I Die Young," they got a nomination for best new artist. Their competition also includes Bon Iver, Jay-Z rap protege J. Cole, Skrillex and rapper-singer Nicki Minaj, who scored four nominations in total.

The 54th Grammys will be held Feb. 12 in Los Angeles. The ceremony will mark the first since the academy shaved its categories from 109 to 78 this year, amid some protest. Some of the more niched categories, like best Zydeco or Cajun music album, were eliminated.

In addition, men and women now compete together in vocal categories for pop, R&B and country, instead of having separate categories for each sex. This year, the category is best pop solo performance and Bruno Mars is the only man nominated for "Grenade." His competition includes Adele for "Someone Like You," Lady Gaga for "You and I," Pink for "(Expletive) Perfect" and Perry for "Firework."

Spruce shines in NYC's Rockefeller Center

NEW YORK (AP)—Mayor Michael Bloomberg helped light the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree on Wednesday night, putting a spotlight on a small-town spruce from Pennsylvania and ringing in the holiday season.

Anna Veteri, visiting the city from suburban Yorktown, said it was "great" to see the colorful lights go on.

"It makes you feel like Christmas," she said.

The 74-foot-tall Norway spruce was illuminated by 30,000 lights during a ceremony that featured performances by Neil Diamond, Cee Lo Green and Carol King. Justin Bieber and Tony Bennett provided pre-taped performances.

It was the first time at the tree lighting for 13 year-old best friends Emily Solomon and Carmela Civello, of Brooklyn.

"It was beautiful," they said in unison.

Though they partially attended the lighting ceremony to see Bieber and were a bit miffed his performance was prerecorded and shown on monitors, they said they were happy to be there.

"I'm ready to get my Christmas gifts!" Emily said.

Tens of thousands of people were penned in on the streets surrounding Rockefeller Center, in midtown Manhattan. Most caught glimpses of performances on screens set up on street corners.

Paloma Diaz, 11, called herself a Bieber "believer" and attended to see him perform.

"I love him, but I also want to see the tree lighting," said the Queens resident, who was with her mother. "I've heard other people say it's really pretty when it lights up."

The tree-lighting ceremony happened on a day President Barack Obama was in town to raise money for his re-election bid. The combination of blocked-off streets and holiday visitors led to traffic jams across Manhattan.

The tree was cut down in Mifflinville, Pa. It's decorated with 5 miles of lights. The lights will be on until Jan. 7. After that, the Christmas tree will be turned into lumber for the housing charity Habitat for Humanity.

Workers building Rockefeller Center set up the first Christmas tree there in 1931. The first official tree-lighting ceremony was in 1933.



The 74-foot-tall Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree is lit by 30,000 energy efficient LED lights in the 79th annual lighting ceremony, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 in New York.

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The Muppets

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:40 |
| Saturday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 | 9:40 |
| Sunday | 1:20 | 4:20 | 7:20 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:20 | 7:20 | |

Jason Segel, Amy Adams
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

When an evil oil man discovers black gold beneath Muppet Theater, Kermit recruits a Muppet super-fan and his two best friends to help gather up the gang for a telethon that will save the venue from being razed and replaced with a giant oil pump. Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) never met an oil field he couldn't suck dry. So when Tex discovers a bountiful reservoir right underneath Muppet Theater, he begins drawing up plans to claim the land and start drilling. Little does Tex realize that devoted Muppets fan Walter is currently in Los Angeles with his best friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams), and that he's not about to let one man's greed spoil a good thing for everyone. With Kermit by their side, Walter, Gary, and Mary hatch a plan to put on a big telethon that will help them raise the ten million dollars needed to keep Muppet Theater standing.



Arthur Christmas

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:10 | 7:10 | 9:45 |
| Saturday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 | 9:45 |
| Sunday | 1:10 | 4:10 | 7:10 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:10 | 7:10 | |

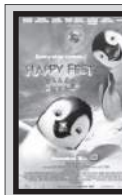
James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie
Comedy • Rated PG



Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Friday | | 4:15 | 7:15 | 10:00 |
| Saturday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | 10:00 |
| Sunday | 1:15 | 4:15 | 7:15 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:15 | 7:15 | |

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Happy Feet Two

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:30 |
| Saturday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | 9:30 |
| Sunday | 1:00 | 4:00 | 7:00 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:00 | 7:00 | |

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams
Children's/family • Rated PG



Immortals

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:55 |
| Saturday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:55 |
| Sunday | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:25 | 7:25 | |

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto
Epic • Rated R



Jack and Jill

| | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Saturday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:50 |
| Sunday | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:30 | 7:30 | |

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes
Comedy • Rated PG



Tower Heist

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|------|------|
| Friday | | | 9:35 |
| Saturday | | | 9:35 |
| Sunday | | 7:05 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 7:05 | |

Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy
Crime, Comedy • Rated PG 13



Puss in Boots

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|------|
| Friday | | 4:05 | 7:05 |
| Saturday | 1:05 | 4:05 | 7:05 |
| Sunday | 1:05 | 4:05 | |
| Monday thru Thursday | | 4:05 | |

Anronio Banderas, Salma Hayek
Children's/family • Rated PG

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France honors Lenny Kravitz with highest award

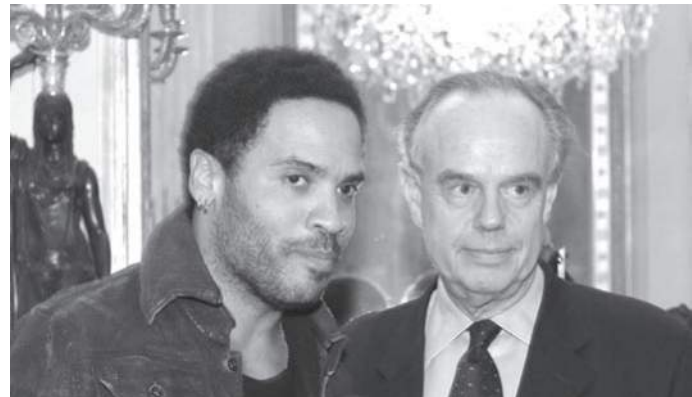
PARIS (AP)—France has paid tribute to Grammy winner Lenny Kravitz with its highest award, the Legion of Honor.

Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand hailed the 47-year-old singer-songwriter at a Paris ceremony on Wednesday, telling him “you freed yourself of the barriers between black and white sound.”

Kravitz told The Associated Press that he got his first big

break at a 1989 music festival in the western French city of Rennes that transformed his career “overnight.” He said “I know it sounds like a fairy tale but it’s true.”

Kravitz was born to a black mother and white father, and his latest album, “Black and White America,” tackles interracial issues—notably what his parents experienced in 1960s New York.



U.S. singer Lenny Kravitz, left, poses with French Culture minister Frederic Mitterrand after being awarded “Officier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres”, (Officer of Arts and Literature), in Paris, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011.

Madonna settles NYC neighbor’s suit over noise

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna has made peace with a neighbor who said the superstar made a racket by using her apartment as a rehearsal studio, lawyers involved in the matter said Wednesday.

Court records showed Karen George’s lawsuit against the singer and their Manhattan building was settled as of Wednesday. Lawyers for Madonna and the building’s co-op board would say only that the matter was resolved. George’s attorney didn’t immediately return a call.

Madonna and the board had said the noise never topped legal levels. The singer also said this March she’d built a studio elsewhere and wasn’t using the apartment for musical moves anymore.

George, whose apartment is upstairs from Madonna’s in a building overlooking Central

Park, had said the dance and exercise routines subjected neighbors to “blaring music, stomping and shaking walls” for up to three hours a day. George was driven from her apartment at times by the “unbearable” noise and vibrations, according to her lawsuit, filed in 2009. It sought unspecified damages.

Madonna took steps to dampen the sound in 2009, but George said they didn’t work, according to an August court ruling that nixed the singer’s bid to dismiss the lawsuit. George had said the building board acknowledged her complaints but ultimately didn’t crack down because it didn’t want trouble with Madonna.

Madonna moved into the building after she was rejected in 1985 by the board at another ritzy Manhattan co-op, the San Remo, where U2 frontman Bono has an apartment.

Mom fears her future plans have cast a pall on the present

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: A while back I told my family I was considering downsizing my life and made the big mistake of telling them I want them to eventually have my house. I also revealed the contents of my will. Now I feel exposed, uncomfortable and vulnerable—possibly even a bit paranoid that they might want to have me “six feet under” sooner than I should be.

I don’t think I am ready to move yet, but I have gotten my family’s hopes up. I did talk to one of them and felt reassured at the time, but I still sense that there’s a change in how they perceive me and all of our futures now.

How can I undo the damage, knowing I have to make sure I have enough money to live on as well as provide for them when I’m gone?

FOOT-IN-MOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR F-IN-M: Two of the most sensitive subjects to discuss are death and money, and you deserve praise for having started the conversation. I disagree that making your intentions known instead of having them transmitted during a reading of your will was a mistake. Because you feel there may have been a misunderstanding, call a family meeting and clarify your message. Tell them your health is great, you have no plans to move in the near future and plan to live a long and happy life.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My mother lives in an assisted living community in the memory care unit. During a recent visit, I became upset because the care staff addressed my mom as “Granny,” “Grandma,” “Mamma,” etc. Mother struggles with the time of day, the day of the week and sometimes forgets who we are—so I don’t see the benefit of using names other than her own. I think it is disrespectful, unacceptable and unprofessional.

When I asked the attendant to please address Mom as “Mrs. Smith” or “Ms. Ann,” she laughed and said, “Granny wouldn’t know who I was talking to if I called her by those names.” My siblings and I took this issue to the director, who told us we shouldn’t be hurt and that the staff was showing our mom she is loved.

I am interested in knowing your opinion on this matter.

SHE HAS A NAME IN GEORGIA

DEAR SHE HAS A NAME: Not knowing the national origin of the attendants in your mother’s care unit I can’t be certain, but what you encountered may be a cultural difference. In other cultures, calling someone “Mama,” “Auntie” or “Grandma” is considered respectful. While it made YOU uncomfortable, if it didn’t have that effect on your mother, you should take your cue from the director of the facility. However, because you have formally requested that your mother be addressed by name, then that is what should be done in the future.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I are out together, he strides out ahead of me and calls back, “Catch up!” or “Keep up!” I am not creeping along but walking at my own (reasonable) pace. I think he should either slow down or let me walk behind him and not expect me to run after him at his command. What do you think?

LIKES TO SMELL THE ROSES IN TENNESSEE

DEAR LIKES TO SMELL THE ROSES: Unless your husband is a Marine drill sergeant, I think you’re right.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

MINISTRY OF GOSSIP

Daniel Craig is a fan of privacy; of the Kardashians, not so much

Daniel Craig has revealed he’s not a big Kardashian fan.

The man who is James Bond and stars in David Fincher’s upcoming “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo” told British GQ that it’s very important to keep your private life private. (Craig and Rachel Weisz had a secret wedding in New York in June.)

“I think there’s a lot to be said for keeping your own counsel,” he told the mag. “You can’t buy your privacy back. ‘Ooh, I want to be alone ... We’ve been in your living room. We were at your birth. You filmed it for us and showed us the placenta, and now you want some privacy?’”

Craig’s saltier language has been edited out for sensitive readers, because he didn’t stop there.

“It is a career; I’m not being cynical. And why wouldn’t you? Look at the Kardashians, they’re worth millions. Millions! I don’t think they were that badly off to begin with, but now look at them. You see that and you think, ‘What, you mean all I have to do is behave like a ... idiot on television and then you’ll pay me millions?’”

Once again, Craig’s saltier language has been edited out. Trust us, he’s not a Kardashian fan.

So Kourtney Kardashian, who just announced she’s pregnant with baby No. 2, can probably stop holding her breath for a shower gift from Craig. *(Patrick Kevin Day)*

Kourtney Kardashian, Scott Disick expecting baby No. 2

Kourtney Kardashian is pregnant, due to bring yet another mini-Kardashian into the world

with help from boyfriend Scott Disick, who said, “It wasn’t like we weren’t trying.”

The couple announced their baby on board Wednesday, courtesy of the cover of Us Weekly.

“I’m nine weeks along,” Kardashian told the mag. “You’re supposed to wait 12 weeks to tell people, but I feel confident.” She found out about five weeks ago, she said, via a home pregnancy test.

So are 32-year-old Kourtney and 28-year-old Scott, whose son Mason Dash Disick was born in December 2009, ever going to tie the knot?

Perhaps—but, as he told Kris Jenner when she guest-hosted “Today” with Hoda Kotb in October: “Worry about yourselves. ... I just don’t need to have a 50-day wedding or whatever everybody else is doing.”

Fifty-day wedding, 72-day marriage, how many reality shows? Hey, who’s counting. It’ll be their baby No. 2. *(Christie D’Zurilla)*

Justin Bieber tops Kim Kardashian as most-searched person of 2011

Justin Bieber has overtaken Kim Kardashian as the most-searched person in 2011, according to the search engine Bing.

Looks like Kim just can’t get a break.

Kardashian was the queen of search last year, but the combination of Bieber’s My World 2.0 Tour, hit concert movie “Justin Bieber: Never Say Never,” “Saturday Night Live” hosting job, Christmas album, romance with Selena Gomez and the little matter of the now-pulled paternity suit over Mariah Yeater’s baby were enough to push him to the top spot.

Meanwhile, Kardashian launched a new reality show,

“Kourtney and Kim Take New York,” got married and got divorced. It was quite a lot, but not enough to stop Bieber fever.

Several notable names dropped out of the top 10 this year, including Sandra Bullock and Jesse James. But President Obama may have fallen the furthest. In 2010, was the No. 5 most-searched person. In 2011, he was No. 49.

Two people who got huge boosts in 2011 were Gomez, who went from No. 50 to No. 11 (thanks, no doubt, to all the Bieber-smooching) and Jennifer Lopez, who wasn’t in the top 50 last year and is now fifth.

Although Amy Winehouse’s death was the fifth most searched-for news story for the whole year, Winehouse herself did not make the top 10 most searched-for people.

Women did very well in 2011, however. Although Bieber was the No. 1 person and musician, the rest of the top 10 in both categories were women. Additionally, Chelsea Handler beat out Conan, Dave and Jay to be the most searched-for late night talk show host. And all of the top 10 reality stars were women.

Strangely, the most searched-for movie was not the final “Harry Potter” or “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1,” but Tom Cruise’s “Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol.” The dominance of the fourth movie in the “Mission: Impossible” franchise makes one wonder if Bing is the preferred search engine of either the Church of Scientology, or animation fans (it’s directed by animator Brad Bird). *(Patrick Kevin Day)*

2011 Gotham Awards: Charlize Theron feels the actress love

IFP’s Gotham Independent Films Awards went off Monday

in Manhattan with nary a “Dark Knight” rising—though the event counted one evil queen in Charlize Theron.

The South African blond was on hand to accept a career achievement award on a night that saw honors for Brad Pitt’s “Tree of Life,” “Beginners” and actress Felicity Jones.

Theron looked chic in a black-and-white frock, flanked by her “Young Adult” director Jason Reitman, costar Patton Oswalt and gorgeous mom Gerd. Though the award was for Charlize exclusively, backstage she opened up about supporting other actresses.

Theron admitted that she was busy filming “Snow White and the Huntsman,” but said she needed to catch up on some award-season films featuring her female peers.

“Of course, this idea that we’re not supportive of each other is just total (bull),” she told The Hollywood Reporter.

Departing the Euphoria Calvin Klein lounge, Theron headed back to her table where she enjoyed her whole meal (including the bread and fondue, a Ministry onlooker said) and mingling with the likes of Zachary Quinto, Penn Badgley, Judy Greer and hostess Edie Falco.

While “Martha Marcy May Marlene” star Lizzie Olsen lost the breakout award to Jones for “Like Crazy,” she said she was grateful to be invited. And though she’s more than made her mark with performances this year, some folks still mistake her for sisters Mary-Kate and Ashley.

“I’m 50/50,” she admitted to some admirers, saying she had physical traits of both her siblings. *(Matt Donnelly)*

Ministry of Gossip: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/gossip/>

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan health Clinic or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpcshc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

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S P O R T S

1st Penn State abuse suit comes from new accuser

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky sexually abused a boy more than 100 times and threatened to harm his family to keep him quiet, according to a lawsuit filed Wednesday by a new accuser who is not part of the criminal case.

The 29-year-old, identified only as John Doe, had never told anyone about the abuse he claims he suffered until Sandusky was charged this month with abusing other boys. His lawyer said he filed a complaint with law enforcement on Tuesday. He became the first plaintiff to file suit in the Penn State child sex abuse scandal a day later.

Sandusky has acknowledged that he showered with boys but denied molesting them. His lawyer did not immediately return a message about the lawsuit. The lawsuit claims Sandusky abused the boy from 1992, when the boy was 10, until 1996 in encounters at the coach's State College home, in a Penn State locker room and on trips, including to a bowl game. The account echoes a grand jury's description of trips, gifts and attention lavished on other boys.

"I am hurting and have been for a long time because of what happened, but feel now even more tormented that I have learned of so many other kids were abused after me," the plaintiff said in a handwritten statement his lawyer read aloud at a news conference.

The lawsuit seeks tens of thousands of dollars and names Sandusky, the university and Sandusky's The Second Mile charity as defendants. The man says he knew the coach through the charity, which Sandusky founded in 1977, ostensibly to help disadvantaged children in central Pennsylvania.

The man was not referenced in the grand jury report that charges Sandusky with abusing eight boys over a 15-year period.

His lawyer, Jeff Anderson, said he believes Sandusky was a predator who could not control his sexual impulses toward children. He harshly criticized officials at Penn State and The Second Mile who failed to report their suspicions and put a stop to any abuse.

"We need to address the institutional recklessness and failures," said Anderson, who specializes in clergy sex abuse lawsuits. "Was it because of power, money, fear, loyalty, lack of education?"

The university said it had not seen the complaint. The charity said it would respond after reviewing the lawsuit but added: "The Second Mile will adhere to its legal responsibilities throughout this process. As always, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families."

Anderson suggested that it ended four years later because Sandusky was not sexually interested in older teens. The lawsuit was filed hours before students and high-ranking administrators participated in a town hall forum organized by students at Penn State's main campus in State College.

Penn State president Rod Erickson promised the university would raise the visibility of ethics "to a new level" following the scandal, which has rocked the campus.

"So hopefully everyone in the university understands ... we learn to do the right thing the first time, every time," Erickson said in opening remarks before an audience of about 450 students and employees at an auditorium in the student union.

Students said the forum, which was broadcast on the school's public television station, will help in the healing process. Sandusky was charged on Nov. 5 with abusing eight boys, some on campus. A grand jury said the allegations were not immediately brought to the attention of authorities even though high-level people at Penn State apparently knew about at least one of them.

The scandal has resulted in the departures of school President Graham Spanier and longtime coach Joe Paterno. Athletic Director Tim Curley has been placed on administrative leave, and Vice President Gary Schultz, who was in charge of the university's police department, has stepped down.

Schultz and Curley are charged with lying to the grand jury and failure to report to police, and Sandusky is charged with child sex abuse. All maintain their innocence.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiff said Sandusky gave him gifts, travel and privileges after meeting him through his charity in 1992. The abuse began shortly afterward, the suit said.

Anderson described Penn State and the charity as entwined institutions, and he charged that both failed to ensure that children were safe when they took part in trips and activities. He declined to say which bowl game the boy attended.

Sandusky took one boy he molested to the Alamo Bowl in Texas in 1999 and threatened to send him home when he resisted his advances, the grand jury said.

The bowl proved to be Sandusky's last game as Penn State's defensive coordinator. Once Paterno's heir apparent, Sandusky left after Paterno told him he would not get the head coaching job.

Anderson said his client John Doe is not that Oklahoma inmate.

By Anderson's count, the grand jury report lists 17 adults made aware of complaints or suspicions about the coach over the years, including those who knew of a 1998 complaint that Sandusky had showered with a Second Mile boy. Police pursued that mother's complaint and compiled more than 100 pages of investigatory notes, but no charges were filed.

Had John Doe known about that, he might have come forward to a parent or counselor years ago, Anderson said.

"Why were so many people, for so long, making choices that protected the institutions and not the children?" Anderson asked. "It's not just about Penn State, it's about all of us."



Sandusky

Source: Suh appeal hearing to be held Thursday

NEW YORK (AP)—Ndamukong Suh will get his appeals hearing right away.

On Thursday afternoon, Suh will present his appeal of his two-game suspension for stomping Packers guard Evan Dietrich-Smith to Art Shell. The league handed out the suspension Tuesday, but Suh immediately appealed.

Shell is a joint appointee of the NFL and the players' association for such cases.

A person familiar with the process told The Associated Press on Wednesday about the hearing, which will be held by conference call. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the NFL has not announced when the hearing will occur.

Suh stomped on Dietrich-Smith during Detroit's Thanksgiving Day loss to the Packers and was ejected. Should he lose the appeal, he will miss Sunday's game at New Orleans and the Lions' Dec. 11 home game against Minnesota.

Usually, a hearing is held within 10 days of the filing of an appeal. But the league has expedited Suh's high-profile case to give the Lions and the second-year player an answer before the Saints game.

If Suh, the 2010 Defensive Rookie of the Year and an All-Pro, loses the appeal, he can return to the Lions on Dec. 12 before a road game against Oakland. He is barred from

practice and the team's facility while suspended.

Early last month, Suh requested and was granted a meeting with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss his play after he drew several penalties and fines. Suh said he had a better understanding of the rules after that meeting.

On Sunday, with it becoming apparent he would be disciplined again, Suh called Goodell to apologize.

Against Green Bay on national TV, Suh lifted up his right knee and forcibly stepped on Dietrich-Smith's right arm during the third quarter of the Lions' 27-15 loss. Before the stomp, Suh shoved Dietrich-Smith's helmet toward the turf while separating himself

from the Packers player on the ground. He was penalized and ejected.

Asked about the incident after the game, Suh sounded defiant, insisting he didn't intentionally step on Dietrich-Smith. A day later, following criticism from the Lions, Suh apologized to his teammates, organization and fans—not to Dietrich-Smith.

His actions prompted more criticism around the league, with some calling Suh the NFL's dirtiest player.

Suh can afford any fines—he is making \$40 million guaranteed with a chance to get paid as much as \$68 million in a five-year contract he signed after Detroit drafted him No. 2 overall in 2010.

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Woods headed in the right direction



THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Tiger Woods

barely qualified for his own tournament at the Chevron World Challenge, an indication that the last two years have been the worst stretch of his career.

His last two weeks of competition allow for a much better outlook.

A trip Down Under gave Woods plenty of indicators that his game might finally be on the rise. He had the 36-hole lead at the Australian Open and finished third, his best result of the year. Then came the Presidents Cup, where he played solidly for five matches at Royal Melbourne and was at his best in the final round of singles.

It wasn't the results, or even the scores, that pleased him. It was his play in blustery conditions—testing conditions in Sydney at The Lakes, even more demanding in Melbourne.

"Anybody who makes swing changes ... you get exposed in the wind," Woods said Wednesday. "I felt very comfortable in that wind, which was great."

He looked back to the early part of this year when he shot 66 in the second round of the Dubai Desert Classic and was right in the thick of the tournament. The wind picked up, and Woods had a 75-72 weekend to tie for 20th.

"I felt I should have won the tournament," Woods said. "A right-to-left swing cost me eight shots on certain holes, and I didn't have the ability to maneuver the ball left-to-right at the time. So the wind exposed me there, which was good."

"Playing in Oz for two weeks,



Tiger Woods smiles as he speaks during a news conference at the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

it was fantastic," he said. "I hit all shapes, all trajectories, and if you look at the rounds, I hit most of my shots pin-high. That's an indication if the wind's blowing that hard, that I'm really controlling my trajectory well."

He might not be done with the wind just yet.

The forecast is for the famous Santa Ana wind to rip through Sherwood Country Club at least for the first few days, which figures to make it more difficult than the Australian courses because of the trees and foothills in Conejo Valley that make it hard to gauge just which way it's blowing.

The 18-man field is not quite

as strong as it has been in years past because of the crowded global schedule. McDowell chose not to defend his title. He was at the World Cup in China last week, and wraps up his European Tour season in Dubai next week. Instead of a journey around the world, he chose to play in South Africa this week in the Nedbank Challenge.

Only PGA Tour members are at Sherwood this year, though it's a solid cast - 11 of them were at the Presidents Cup, while Gary Woodland returns from China where he and Matt Kuchar gave the United States its first World Cup title in 11 years.

Woods nearly didn't make it into the field. Because the Chevron World Challenge now offers world ranking points, the two exemptions had to be inside the top 50 in the world when qualifying ended in September. That was during the FedEx Cup playoffs—Woods was ineligible for those—and he was No. 49 at the cutoff date.

Now that he's here, it's another chance for him to measure his progress.

Woods will play the first round with Steve Stricker, one of his close friends on tour and regular partner. They played practice rounds at Royal Mel-

bourne and a foursomes match on the first day. Woods suffered his worst loss ever in match play when Adam Scott and K.J. Choi beat them, 7 and 6.

Stricker was still rusty from having not competed in nearly two months, but he liked what he saw from his partner.

"He was hitting it as solid as I've ever seen him hit it," Stricker said during his pro-am round at Sherwood. "He's got his length back—he had it back last year, too—but he hit a 2-iron at Melbourne that was going forever. Into the wind, it was going like a 3-wood. He was just really compressing the ball and

hitting it on a direct line."

Woods gave Stricker credit for sorting out a flaw in his putting stroke before Woods played his singles match, which he won to provide the cup-clinching point for the Americans.

That might be the final piece of the puzzle—putting and confidence, which often are linked in this game.

Woods didn't make many putts in Australia, though not many players did on the fast, firm greens of Royal Melbourne, especially in those gusts.

"He seems happy," Stricker said. "And he's getting his confidence back. He just needs to see the ball go in the hole a few more times."

Woods found time for a little humor Wednesday. He was told about a hockey helmet that Woods supposedly signed years ago and made its way to the Hockey Hall of Fame. A reporter told him it was going for \$5,000 on eBay.

Woods stared at him blankly, and as much as the reporter tried to jog his memory, there was no recollection. He then was asked about his swing.

"I'm swinging the club well enough that you don't need to walk out there with hockey helmets on," Woods said.

As for his expectations, Woods said they have not changed. "Just place the ball in correct spots and get the W," he said. Even so, they would seem to be different than they were at the Frys.com Open the first week in October, when he had not played in seven weeks; or in Australia, after another month off.

He feels he is making progress, and only had to wait a week to show it this time.

"Absolutely I can sense it," Woods said. "I've made tremendous strides."

Source: Feds search Fine's office



SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Federal agents have searched the campus office of former Syracuse assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine as part of the investigation of child molestation allegations against him, according to a law enforcement official familiar with the inquiry.

Fine's office at the Carmelo K. Anthony Basketball Center was searched early Tuesday morning, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because it's an ongoing investigation.

The U.S. Secret Service already searched Fine's house last Friday. Federal prosecutors with the U.S. Attorney's office in northern New York, which is leading the investigation, would not say what they sought or found there, saying it was under seal. The warrant ap-

proving the search of his office also was sealed.

Three men, including two former Syracuse ballboys, have accused Fine of molesting them as children. He has denied the allegations. The university fired him Sunday after a third accuser went public and ESPN broadcast a 2002 audiotape, obtained and recorded by accuser Bobby Davis, of a conversation between Davis and a woman ESPN identified as Fine's wife, Laurie, in which she says she knew "everything that went on."

As the investigation continues, advocates for sex abuse victims have said Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim should resign or be fired for adamantly defending Fine and verbally disparaging the accusers.

Contacted by The Associated Press by phone Wednesday, Boeheim repeated several times, "I can't talk about anything."

On Tuesday afternoon, asked to comment on Boeheim's sta-

tus Tuesday afternoon, Syracuse University Chancellor Nancy Cantor said: "Coach Boeheim is our coach."

University trustees have been instructed to refer all questions back to the university but some contacted by The Associated Press offered support for Boeheim and said there was no indication his job was in danger.

"I have not heard anything but complete support for Coach Boeheim," said trustee Michael Wohl. "Coach Boeheim hasn't done anything wrong. At this point, we're completely behind the coach."

University spokesman Kevin Quinn said it's policy to refer all comment to the university during an ongoing investigation, and most of the 70 active trustees contacted by the AP did that.

"I personally stand with our Chancellor Nancy Cantor that he's our coach," Reinaldo Pascual said. He declined further comment.

Boeheim himself addressed the topic after Tuesday night's win over Eastern Michigan.

"I never worried about my job status in 36 years," Boeheim said at his first postgame news conference since Fine was fired. "I do my job. What happened on my watch, we will see. When the investigation is done, we will find out what happened on my watch."

Fine's third accuser, 23-year-old Zach Tomaselli of Lewiston, Maine, appeared on Anderson Cooper's afternoon talk show on CBS on Wednesday.

In that interview, Tomaselli said he has offered to take a lie detector test, has cooperated with investigators and that there was evidence to support his account that he traveled on a bus to Pittsburgh for a January 2002 away game and stayed with Fine in a hotel room, where Tomaselli accused Fine of putting porn on the TV and fondling him.

Tomaselli, who faces sexual assault charges in Maine involving a 14-year-old boy, de-

clined to say what the evidence was, saying it would hinder the investigation.

Pittsburgh police said they will let federal prosecutors in New York handle that alleged local incident. Pittsburgh police Cmdr. Thomas Stangrecki said Tomaselli called city police, but that Pittsburgh investigators never formally interviewed him after learning the U.S. Attorney's Office in Syracuse is investigating.

Davis first contacted Syracuse police in 2002 regarding Fine, but there was no investigation because the statute of limitations had passed. In 2005, Davis went to the university, which did its own investigation, but the school said the accusations could not be corroborated.

On Nov. 17, Davis' allegations resurfaced.

Davis, now 39, told ESPN that Fine molested him beginning in 1984 and that the sexual contact continued until he was around 27. A ball boy for six years, Davis said the abuse occurred at Fine's home, at Syracuse basketball

facilities and on team road trips, including the 1987 Final Four. Davis' stepbrother, Mike Lang, 45, who also was a ball boy, told ESPN that Fine began molesting him while he was in the fifth or sixth grade.

Repeated attempts to reach Davis and Lang have been unsuccessful.

Ex-Syracuse basketball star and current Detroit Mayor Dave Bing told the AP on Wednesday that when he called Fine about the allegations earlier this month, Fine denied it.

"I called Bernie and he said 'absolutely not,'" when asked about the claims," Bing said. "He thought it would blow over and said there was no truth to it, and I accepted that."

Bing said he shares a "strong friendship" with Fine and Boeheim. Bing said he and Boeheim have tried to reach each other by phone since the scandal broke but have yet to speak.

"I don't know the truth," Bing said. "My position is let this thing play and see where the truth is."

With lockout nearing end, basketball back in focus



NEW YORK (AP)—These are the kinds of negotiations NBA fans have been waiting for.

Teams began talking to agents Wednesday as the lockout inched closer to its end, and basketball moved back into focus. Dwight Howard and Chris Paul were linked to trade speculation, while free agents such as Tyson Chandler and Nene were in the news after months of attorneys getting all the ink.

Now, the players are taking over and the league was set to reopen its facilities for workouts Thursday.

Some may arrive out of shape, just as was the case in January 1999 after the NBA's only other shortened season. But they're anxious to get back, with a little more than three weeks until they start playing games.

"The guys are going to come in and I'm sure they're going to be in good shape. They want to play," new Houston coach Kevin McHale told reporters.

"These guys have played basketball their entire lives. They love to play basketball and they're excited to get after it."

The league still hopes to open training camps and free agency next Friday, leaving both sides scrambling to get business finished in time.

The lawsuits have been settled, contingent upon the ratification of a new collective bargaining agreement by Dec. 9. Players are in the process of



Philadelphia 76ers president Rod Thorn, left, and coach Doug Collins take questions during a news conference at the NBA basketball team's training facility Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011, in Philadelphia.

collecting the signatures needed to approve the reformation of the union, which must be done before the sides can resume bargaining on the remaining issues that must be settled before each side can vote.

NBA officials are working to complete a two-game exhibition schedule for each team that will lead to a 66-game regular season, starting with a five-game slate on Christmas.

"Considering that a lot of this is brand new to us, the last 24 hours has been a little bit of a

scramble," Oklahoma City general manager Sam Presti said. "We have a lot of things that we have to do from getting players in and just basically preparing ourselves for what's ahead."

Philadelphia 76ers president Rod Thorn was working in the league office during the last lockout and knows how much work it will take to stay on the schedule Commissioner David Stern revealed after reaching a tentative agreement with the players early last Saturday.

"I definitely remember that

time and how hectic it was on the NBA side," Thorn said. "If you think it was hectic over here, it was really hectic on that side."

Trying to make the process smoother, the NBA agreed to allow players to re-enter the buildings Thursday. Coaches aren't allowed, but players, who will have to sign a waiver removing teams of liability in case of injury, can meet with the teams' training personnel and conduct unsupervised workouts. The decision was made

in consultation with the union Tuesday, and league spokesman Tim Frank denied it had anything to do with the settlement of the litigation.

"We agreed that it was in everyone's interest that players have the opportunity to get back to work," he said.

The lockout began July 1, which would have been the opening of free agency. It finally arrived in a minimized form Wednesday morning, when teams were allowed to talk to agents. Contracts can't yet be

offered or signed—not that anyone is ready to rush into it as they digest the new signing and spending rules that will become official in the new deal.

Chandler, the starting center for NBA champion Dallas, and Denver's Nene headed a solid core of free agent big men. Jamal Crawford, the former top sixth man from Atlanta, was available for teams seeking backcourt scoring punch, and teams seeking a reliable veteran swingman could sort through Grant Hill, Shane Battier, Caron Butler and Tayshaun Prince.

But the class isn't spectacular, which is why the focus was already on next summer, when Howard, Paul and Deron Williams can become free agents.

There were reports that Paul planned to leave New Orleans, and that the teams were angling to trade for him. Nets general manager Billy King denied an ESPN.com report that he was preparing to offer Brook Lopez and two first-round picks to Orlando in hopes of getting Howard to play with Williams.

"I'll go on the record that I haven't talked to Orlando about a trade since February, right before the trade deadline," King said. "I have not had any conversations at all with my good friend Otis (Smith, the Magic general manager)."

"So, I don't know where that is coming from."

The league could announce the opening-day schedule this week. The full regular-season schedule may not be unveiled until next week.

BOSTON (AP)—Players eating fried chicken and drinking beer in the clubhouse during games. If it didn't bother Bobby Valentine as a baseball lifer, it would certainly offend his sensibilities as a self-proclaimed gourmet chef.

"He won't let that happen. There's no way he's going to let that happen," said Tommy Lasorda, Valentine's manager in the minor leagues and a mentor who encouraged him to try for the Red Sox job.

"There's times—in all phases of life—when you've got to kick them in the (rear) when they need it, and there's times when you need to hug them if they need it. Your livelihood depends on those guys. You've got to have them in the right frame of mind, to be loyal to the organization, to put forth all the effort that they have."

Boston announced Valentine as its new manager Wednesday, and he will be introduced by the Red Sox at a Fenway Park news conference on Thursday evening.

The 61-year-old replaces Terry Francona, who left after eight years in which he guided the Red Sox to two World Series titles but also the biggest September collapse in baseball history. The first job for

Forget '11 (or so Red Sox hope): Bobby V is coming

the former Mets and Rangers manager: reversing a culture in which players ate takeout fried chicken and drank beer in the clubhouse during games instead of sitting on the bench with their teammates.

"You give loyalty, you'll get it back. You give love, you'll get it back," Lasorda said Wednesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "And that's the way it has to be."

At a news conference the day he formally interviewed for the job, Valentine said he learned a lot about discipline while managing in Japan. Although the players there are more respectful of authority and less likely to step out of line, he said, they also appreciated having clearly defined rules so they knew where their limits were.

"Discipline is not 30 whacks with a whip these days," Valentine said. "I think everyone likes discipline. I think everyone likes structure. Everyone likes to be acknowledged when they do things properly. Discipline and rules and things like that—it's just about right and wrong."

Francona admitted he lost his

players near the end of a tenure during which he counted on them to police themselves and never said anything negative about them in public. When Valentine was in New York, he did not hesitate to criticize his players and bickered with them, his boss and the media.

Former Mets general manager Omar Minaya said Valentine is every bit a players' manager but one who insists on accountability.

"Bobby is not going to be the guy who's cracking the whip. I can tell you that right now," said Minaya, who was in the Rangers and Mets front offices when Valentine managed there. "He's going to be a players' manager, but he's going to command respect. ... I think what Bobby's going to try to do is demand that players be professional."

The Red Sox topped the AL East for much of the summer and had a nine-game lead in the wild-card race that they squandered by going 7-20 in September, missing the playoffs for the second straight season. Francona left before he could be fired, saying the clubhouse needed a different voice.

And, boy, is Valentine ever different.

A restaurateur who claims to have invented the wrap sandwich; a high school star in football and baseball; a two-time minor-league MVP; the son-in-law of former major leaguer Ralph Branca; the manager of the NL pennant-winning New York Mets and Japanese champion Chiba Lotte Marines; the director of health and public safety in Stamford, Conn.; purveyor of an athletic training facility; a successful TV analyst.

And he might even be most famous for returning to the dugout wearing a fake mustache and sunglasses after being ejected from a game in 1999; Major League Baseball fined him \$5,000 and suspended him for three games.

Valentine's personality certainly is large.

And his resume is long.

But it has one major gap: He's never won a World Series.

"It drives all of us that do this for a living," Minaya said. "If you don't win a World Series and you're a competitor, it drives you."

Valentine managed the Texas

Rangers from 1985-92, when he was fired by then-owner and future U.S. President George W. Bush. His last big league managerial job was with the Mets, from 1996-02, where he guided the Mets to consecutive wild-card berths and a trip to the 2000 World Series.

Two years later, they finished last and Valentine was fired, leaving him with a 1,117-1,072 record. He has never finished in first place in 15 major league seasons.

But Valentine went to Japan and managed Chiba Lotte to a championship in 2005. He has been working as an analyst for ESPN, where he has said Red Sox pitcher Josh Beckett should work faster and left fielder Carl Crawford should close his stance.

"These last two years have been good for Bobby. It gave him a chance to get back and become familiar with all the players in the major leagues. That will help him," Branca said. "Boston is a challenge, but when has he not liked challenges?"

A native of Connecticut and a former roommate of Bill Buckner's, Valentine was the most intriguing candidate for

the Red Sox job on a list that included Gene Lamont, Dale Sveum, Torey Lovullo, Pete Mackanin and Sandy Alomar Jr. After his name surfaced, he was endorsed for the job not only by Lasorda but by Steve Phillips, the Mets GM who bickered with Valentine and eventually fired him; Bush has also expressed a fondness for his former skipper.

Minaya said Valentine's out-sized personality will be a plus in Boston, where fans still are stewing over last year's collapse.

"All year they're going to be reminded of what happened in '11, and Bobby will be able to take the attention on himself," said Minaya, whose Mets missed the playoffs on the last day of the season after leading the division in both 2007 and '08. "We lived it. There's no doubt that all year long the Red Sox are going to be reminded of last year. I think Bobby's going to be a positive force in getting people to focus on '12."

The Red Sox certainly hope so.

At about the same time Valentine was landing in New York on his way back from a goodwill trip to Japan, the Red Sox sent reporters an advisory that select tickets for 2012 will go on sale next week.

Mixed Bloodshooters, Sabalu Boys, Anie's Imuza lead divisions

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



With two weeks left in the regular season, D'Pirates Bar's Mixed Bloodshooters, D'Pirates Bar's Sabalu Boys, and Sand's Bar's Anie's Imuza are all in first place in their respective divisions following this week's Saipan Electronic Dart Association matchups.

Mixed Bloodshooters hold a healthy 14-game lead in the A Division, Sabalu Boys are all alone in the Tuesday B-League, while Anie's Imuza clings to a five-game lead in C-Division.

On Monday, A Division's Mixed Bloodshooters downed second-ranked Celebrity (157-115), 13-4, at home to improve to 171-101.

In other results, Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boys (139-133) defeated the Proofers (122-150), 10-7, in a road match held at Bammy's Bar; the Primos (121-151) bested the Predators (134-138), on the road at D'Pirates'; and fourth-ranked Ali'i Kamote's (148-124) brushed off Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Troubleshooters (94-178), 14-3, at home in Naked Fish.

Notably, Bar Gaia's Gaiana-A (94-161) is scheduled to host a makeup match tonight with third-ranked D'Pirates' Bud



▲ D'Pirates Bar's Sabalu Boys, seen here in a file photo, bested third place and sister team Delubyo in a road draw last Tuesday in the SEDA B-League.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



◀ D'Pirates Bar's Mixed Bloodshooters, seen here in a file photo, now holds a 14-game lead in the SEDA A-division after downing second-ranked Celebrity last Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brothers (147-108).

On Tuesday, B-League's Sabalu Boys bested third place and sister team Delubyo (145-95), 9-6, in a road draw at D'Pirates to improve to 186-54.

Sabalu holds a 36-game lead over second place and sister team Mixed Bloodshooters II (150-190), even after the latter skunked Ombre Za (90-150), 15-0, in a home tiff.

With all three of its sponsored teams well in front of the pack, D'Pirates Bar is a lock to sweep the podium.

In other results, Es'y Kitchen's Shawarma Boys (142-98)

defeated Jonny's Dosukebe Boys (112-128), 9-6, at home; GCC Carpeters (141-99) routed VFW Post 3457's Assashunz (75-165), 12-3, in a home draw at VFW; and Strike Force (112-128) defeated K-1 Snickers (47-193), 11-4, in a road draw held at Jonny's.

On Wednesday, C-Division's Anie's Imuza trampled on Gaia's Gaiana-C (56-184), 12-3, on the road to raise its record 168-72. Second-ranked D'Pirates' Yotsketch Boys (163-77), however, gained a chunk of ground

thanks to a 14-0 shellacking of Jonny's Night Hawks (91-149) on the road.

Other results include third-ranked VFW Oneshot (162-78) cutting through Joe's I Like It (94-146), 11-4, in a road match and the Sparks (138-102) defeated Naked Fish's Oh! MG (129-111), 9-6, in a home draw held at Jonny's.

Meanwhile, D'Pirates' Lucky Shot (96-129) is scheduled to host a makeup match tonight against Gaia's World C (81-144).

KONFLIKT

From Page 32

found his mark after the pause and scored eight points to keep his team in front, 50-47, heading into crunch time.

It went back and forth in a fast-paced fourth period and 11 clutch points from Konflikt's Jawn Joyner, including a late trey, made the difference when the dust cleared.

Proa's Iguel scrambled for 10 points to keep his team within striking distance of Konflikt, but a three-point play by Esdrelon sealed the deal for his team.

Esdrelon led a well-balanced Konflikt attack with 15 markers, while Iguel carried Proa with 33 points the hard-fought loss.

In the second match, Mobil built an early 20-14 lead with a mixed effort as six different players scored in the opening period.

Running Rebels' Ben Lisua and Trevor Ogumoro teamed up for 16 points in a second quarter rally, but Mobil continued to spread the ball around and led it by a handful, 39-43, at halftime.

Mobil's Jun Estolas then buried a pair of long-range field goals for a quick 12 points early

in the third quarter to help his team pull away, 63-49, with 10 minutes to go.

Estolas added 11 more in the fourth period and the Running Rebels were unable to climb out of the hole, despite 12 markers in the clutch by Ogumoro.

Ogumoro led all scorers with 29 on the short end, while Estolas carried the torch for Mobil with 28.

First Game

Konflikt 72 — Esdrelon 15, Sablan 14, Joyner 14, De Vero 12, Barrios 8, Capalad 3, Tamayo 2.

Proa 70 — Iguel 33, Lizama 12, Barcinas 8, Johnson 7, Sablan 5, Rabauliman 4, Libuw 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-17, 34-32, 50-47, 72-70.

Second Game

Mobil 84 — Estolas 28, Fernando 13, Ruloked 12, Sharry 8, Maratita 8, DeGuzman 6, Factor 6, Moises 3, Gapor 2.

Running Rebels 76 — Ogumoro 29, Lisua 14, Sacramento 8, Fital 7, Villacrusis 6, Litulumar 4, DL Guerrero 2, Aughenbaugh 2, Ogarto 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-14, 39-34, 63-49, 84-76.

UEFA

From Page 32

other golden opportunity for NMIFA and its coaches to receive first hand quality instructions from a FIFA national team coach," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association general secretary Ed Salas said in an email circulated to NMIFA members.

The 37-year-old White was a former coach of the national teams of British Virgin Islands and Bahamas. At age 24, he became one of the youngest na-

tional coaches/technical directors of a FIFA-affiliated country (British Virgin Islands) and was also the youngest coach to bring a national team (Bahamas) to the FIFA World Cup at age 25. With White coaching Bahamas, the CONCACAF national federation rose 28 notches to the world ranking, leaping from No. 83 to No. 55.

In October this year, the Southampton, England native was one of the only 16 coaches in the world selected to attend the prestigious Elite Coaching License (A license pro) which is the highest practical coaching

award offered by UEFA.

As a player, White donned the youth team uniforms of Southampton City and Hampshire County and was considered to suit up for Southampton FC, an English football team nicknamed the Saints and plays in the Football League Championship. However, White ended up playing for Bognor Regis Town FC, which was then coached by local legend Jack Pearce in the GM Vauxhall Conference.

From England, White moved to Australia in 1994 and played for the Freemantle

City Soccer Club in the Australian Professional Soccer League. In the Land Down Under, White set up his own soccer academy and also started coaching. He stayed in Australia until September 1999 when he accepted the coaching post with the Bahamas.

Now, the 10-year FIFA coach is the technical director for the Washington Youth Soccer, which has 135,000 players and 25,000 coaches on its list. He is also a member of the U.S. soccer national coaching staff and players developmental task force.

MDX

From Page 32

ures led by Alex Lauron, who cashed in with 19 points. Zack Babauta chipped in 13, Ziddy Johannes added 12, Zack Diaz contributed 11, and Mike Palacios and Ben Lisua had 10 each.

An 8-2 start gave MDX early control of the match and it kept pushing up the tempo of the game, scoring on several fast-break plays for a 26-17 advantage after 10 minutes of play.

MDX maintained the double-digit lead in the next three quarters, as every player coach Aries Olivos fielded in the game found a way to score.

Wushin failed to trim the lead to single digits at the end of each quarter despite the impressive inside game of Edwin Santos and triples of Dick Tibayan. Santos had a couple of and-one

plays down low, while Tibayan hit four treys. Santos and Tibayan lacked support from their teammates and Wushin could not score at least 20 points in each of the fourth quarter with its biggest output at 19 points in the second frame.

Santos and Tabora finished with 19 markers apiece, while Jun Tabora was only the third player to score in twin digits for Wushin with 11 and was held to only four field goals and failed to score in streaks.

Konstrak 87, Saipan Boys 81

Konstrak are also undefeated in two games after slipping past Saipan Boys.

Jun Estolas drilled 15 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter to lift Konstrak to the six-point win.

Konstrak was ahead by only hair after the third period, 62-61, when Estolas scored 10

straight markers at one point in the fourth canto to give Konstrak enough cushion. The high-scoring guard also nailed five of Konstrak's last 10 points, while Elgene Mangali canned two important charities to ensure the victory. Mangali led all scorers with his 35 points.

Mangali had his own string of points, making seven straight in the first and 12 overall for Konstrak's 21-15 edge. He added nine more as Konstrak stretched the lead to nine at the break, 44-35.

Estolas, who was held to three field goals in the first half, fired eight points in the third, while Mangali chipped in six, as Konstrak hung on to the driver's seat. Saipan Boys moved within one after outgunning Konstrak in the third, 26-18, behind the 13 points of Jun Singka and 10 of Angelo Fernando.

In the fourth period, Saipan Boys continued to keep up with

Konstrak, but Estolas was there to foil the former's bid for a come-from-behind win.

First Game

Konstrak 87 — Mangali 35, Estolas 29, Reyes 6, Dayrit 5, Mallari 5, Galzote 4, Deleon Guerrero.

Saipan Boys 81 — Fernando 25, Singka 20, Achas 11, Salazar 6, Hernaez 6, Gapor 6, Quemado 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-15, 44-35, 62-61, 87-81.

Second Game

MDX 84 — Lauron 19, Z. Babauta 13, Johannes 12, Diaz 11, Palacios 10, Lisua 10, Park 6, Tenorio 4.

Wushin Express 67 — Santos 19, Tibayan 19, Tabora 11, Lizama 9, Patawaran 4, Ebuen 3, Farinas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-17, 49-36, 62-52, 84-67.

RUSSIAN

From Page 32

ing champion Joon Yong Seo, Ji Hang Choi, and Jung Hwan Youm of Korea and Matthew Wood and John Anderson of Australia are expected to arrive on Saipan today, according to organizers. Five riders from Guam are also scheduled to plane in today.

Saipan bet Miekio Carey, who will defend her women's championships against four female pros in the weekend race, can't wait to hit the road and race in the competitive field.

"I am ready to go and I am happy to ride against other pros. They will help me become a strong biker," said Carey, who timed in at 3:22:05.34 last year to place first in the women's division and 10th overall.

Carey was more than 17 minutes ahead of her closest pursuer Guam's Chiyo Lombard (3:39:31.41) in 2010, but this year she believes the gap will be closer and she didn't know if is she will be able to defend her crown against the two tough

Russian bikers, Korea's Chan Hee Hwang, and Australia's Jodie Willett.

"You never know what will happen this Saturday. I might be the last person to finish, but I'll do my best. I will be happy to see Lewie Tenorio and young bikers Andy Nutting and Angelo Jones do the whole course and Kaisei Toda in the two-person race," Carey said.

Tenorio, Carey, Jones, and Nutting are among the 86 riders who will compete in the solo race, while Toda is one of the 20 bikers entered in the two-person race. Six teams in the four-person race complete the 159-rider list of this year's Hell of Marianas.

Bikers must check-in on or before 5:15am tomorrow, as the race starts at 6:15am at the southern parking lot of the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

There will be a seven-hour cutoff time (1:15pm) for participants and bikers who have yet to reach the Saipan Radar Station in As Matuis (50-kilometer mark) at 9:45 will be disqualified and must return to PIC.

'Pikaboo' to stake title in Trench Warz 15



Wusstig

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez will put his unblemished record and featherweight title on the line when he takes on Guam's Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy on Dec. 16 at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.

Alvarez is looking to stretch his unbeaten streak to eight. He was awarded a unanimous decision victory after five grueling rounds against Marianas Elite's Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar in Rites of Passage 11: Onra last September.

Wusstig, fighting out of Counter Shot MMA, totes an unremarkable 2-5 record and has not notched a win since July 2008. He lost three fights



Alvarez

in 2010, one by submission and two via decision.

Trench Tech also announced changes to the Trench Warz 15's fight card with Josh "Chaos" Duenas (1-0) going up against Kev "The Rev" Esteves in a battle of independents at 135 lbs.

Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios (5-3), meanwhile, will take on Guam's Bryan Toves of the Light Out Gym at 145 lbs and Palacios' stablemate Mark "The Dark" Nuique (5-0) will face off against Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna (2-10) at 135 lbs.

In addition, Guam's Gianna "Gia-Baby" Sarusal of Dededo Boxing Club and Lights Out Gym is still looking for an opponent in a female boxing exhibition match set from 130 to 150 lbs.

Interested contenders must be

at least 18 years old. Sarusal's last exhibition match resulted in a draw against Saipan's Tara "The Tarantula" Namauleg in Rites of Passage 11: Onra.

A total of 14 fights are listed on the fight card for Trench Warz 15, including the heavyweight main event at 230 lbs between Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam Bam" Lassiter (1-1) and Guam's Manny "The Enforcer" Chong (8-8) of Thug Cop Fight Club.

Chong is returning to the cage after over a two-year hiatus. He lost his last fight in July 2009 when Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial knocked him out. Fitial is the current Pacific Xtreme Combat heavyweight champion.

Lassiter, meanwhile, is looking to bounce back from a sub-

mission loss issued by South Korea's Doo Hwan Kim (1-0) last month in PXC 27.

Trench Tech's Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse (7-4), for his part, will square off against Marianas Elite's Maitai "The Charger" Charley (3-7) at 145 lbs.

Both fighters are hungry for a win as Charley absorbed a tough split-decision loss to Trench Tech's "Badd" Brad Palacios last June, while Korean Top Team's Jang Yong "The Beast" Kim submitted Jesse with an arm bar in the first round of last month in PXC 27.

Other matches in the fight card are the following:

■ Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai (8-4-1D) vs. Guam's Martin "Gosh" Pablo of Guahan Top Dog in a heavy-

weight bout at 230 lbs;

■ Trench Tech's Martin "Ningbo Slice" Cepeda (3-1) vs. Counter Shot's Keith Corpuz in a light heavyweight match;

■ Zalaka's Joe "Da Combo" Duenas (1-0) vs. Counter Shot newcomer Leandro "Leander-lai" Dalalo at 130 lbs;

■ Marianas Elite's V.J. Pua (1-0) vs. Guam newcomer Jared Mellon of Spike 22-Ground Fu at 170 lbs;

■ Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga (1-0) vs. The Fight Shop's Dennis Cruz at 150 lbs;

■ Zalaka's Jake "One Blow" Ilo (0-1) vs. Tinian's Craig "Earthquake" Borja (2-1) of Zeng Zung at 140 lbs;

■ Zalaka's John Ilo vs. Tinian's Rentz "The Intense" Benghit of

Team Relentless in a K-1 Kickboxing match at 145 lbs; and

■ Zalaka's Zack Reyes vs. Tinian-Zeng Zung's George "Kamikaze" Manglona in a boxing match at 145 lbs.

Trench Warz 15 standby matches include Regino Mundo ready to step in against Dung Castro; Mike Salas against Ryan "Trobz" Ngirbabul in a K-1 match at 215 lbs; Joe Ray "Manglo" Manglona and Irvin Saralu in a MMA bout at 145 lbs; and Tinian's Pete Cepeda (1-0) of Zeng Zung still waiting for an opponent for an MMA bout at 140 lbs.

The listed MMA records were derived from www.sherdog.com and all matches are subject to change. Tickets will be on sale soon.

IT&E Voyagers, Shark Attack still in front

Jonny's Bar & Grill's IT&E Voyagers and Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's Shark Attack are both fighting their way through rough water after the conclusion of Tuesday's Saipan Billiards Association 2011 Budweiser Summer/Fall 8-Ball League matchups.

IT&E Voyagers hold a nine-game lead atop the Agangan Division and Shark Attack boasts a 10-game margin in the Obyan Division. However, the two



perhaps losing their swagger. It was not pretty, but the IT&E Voyagers found a way past the Docomo Hustlers (55-43), 4-3, at home to improve to 71-27.

It was all tied up heading into the final doubles pairing against its Docomo rivals when Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva and Luis Fajardo pulled it together in the clutch to clinch the match with a

two-game sweep.

In other results, the IT&E Incridibles endured a tough, 3-4, upset at home in Sand's Bar to Jonny's Home Boyz Five (53-45), but still remain in second spot at 62-32; and Joe's Sports Bar's Fotten Palau (26-72) pulled out a 5-2 upset on the road over VFW Post 3457's X-Tream (27-71).

Meanwhile, Obyan's Shark Attack is licking its wounds after a surprising 1-6 road loss to the last place Titans (42-56) at 19th Hole Sports Bar.

Shark Attack's record fell to 60-38, but still leads the division by double digits.

In other results, second-ranked Team SCS (50-48) outlasted 19th Hole's Poksu (47-51), 4-3, in a home match at Jonny's, while Jonny's Crazy 8 (49-49) routed Pirata (46-52), 6-1, on the road at D'Pirates Bar. (Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)

Holiday Season Impaired Driving Month

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Campaign

November 27, 2011 through January 3, 2012

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Saipan Tribune Sports



32 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Konflikt squeaks past Proa in GBL



Konflikt's Dave Sablan attacks the basket in Wednesday's GBL-IT&E Cup matchup against Proa at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Konflikt outlasted Proa, 72-70, on Wednesday as the Garapan Basketball League IT&E Cup season resumed after a weeklong sabbatical at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Undefeated Konflikt now sits alone in first place in the standings after four games, while Proa's win-loss record tumbled down to 3-2.

In the nightcap, Mobil gave Running Rebels its first loss of the season, 84-76, to improve to 2-3.

In the curtain raiser, Proa's

Pete Iguel caught fire early and drained two 3-pointers for 14 points in the opening 10 minutes that gave his team a 17-14 advantage.



Garapan Basketball League

Konflikt battled back and managed a slim 34-32 advantage at the half.

Iguel was held in check before taking a seat, while Konflikt's Dave Sablan provided the spark with seven quick points at the start of the second quarter.

Konflikt's Elmer Esdrelon

See **KONFLIKT** on **Page 30**

UEFA coach to conduct clinic on Saipan today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Union of European Football Associations elite coach Gary White will be in town today to conduct a clinic at the Kolblerville Elementary School.

The coaching clinic will run from 4:30pm to 7:30pm with the first one and a half hours of the session devoted to practical part and will be held at the Umangs' pitch and the remaining hours for lecture at the cafeteria.

"Mr. White was invited by Guam Football Association to conduct clinics for its coaches and players and has set aside Friday for us to avail of Mr. White's expertise. This is an-

See **UEFA** on **Page 30**



UEFA A license coach Gary White gestures during a coaching summit with Washington Youth Soccer.

WWW.WSYSA.COM

MDX keeps perfect record in DLX caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



DLX Basketball Invitational

MDX is still undefeated in the 2011

Friendship League, following an 84-67 rout of Wushin Express last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MDX leaned on its balance offense to notch its third win in as many games. Six MDX players scored in double fig-

See **MDX** on **Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX's Zack Babauta drives against Wushin Express defenders during their game in the DLX caging last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Russian pros arrive for 'Hell'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Russian professional cyclists Rita and Konstantin Fast, Natalia Zakharova, and Danila Komkov planed in yesterday morning in time for tomorrow's 5th Hell of Marianas Century

Cycle Race. The quartet then rode a portion of the 100-kilometer course, as they were seen cruising along Beach Road yesterday morning.

The four Russians are among the four pros competing in tomorrow's race. Defend- See **RUSSIAN** on **Page 30**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rita Fast, Natalia Zakharova, Konstantin Fast, and Danila Komkov pose for a group photo yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan before heading out to the road for a practice ride for tomorrow's Hell of Marianas.